Cover Design
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Interior Design
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なつのぜんひつ 3

夏の前日

吉田基已

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夏の前日 3

吉田基已

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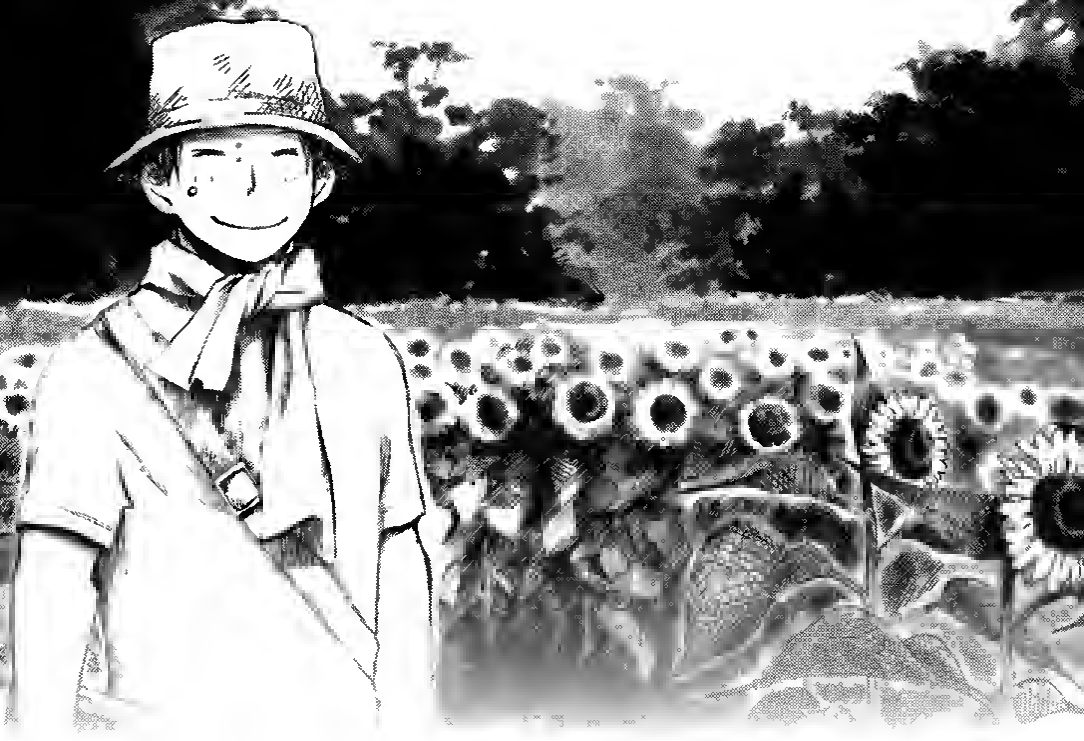
自分が何をしたいのか分からなくなり、画が描けなくなっていた美大生・青木哲生。美大予備校の講師バイトをしたことで、夢中で絵を描く学生にふれ、再び絵に向かう。ヒントは「はなみ」。彼女を見ていると、良い絵が描けそうな気がする！

夏の前日
「なつのぜんじつ」
3
吉田基已



good! AFTERNOON KC

夏の前日 3

「なつのぜんじつ」

吉田基已

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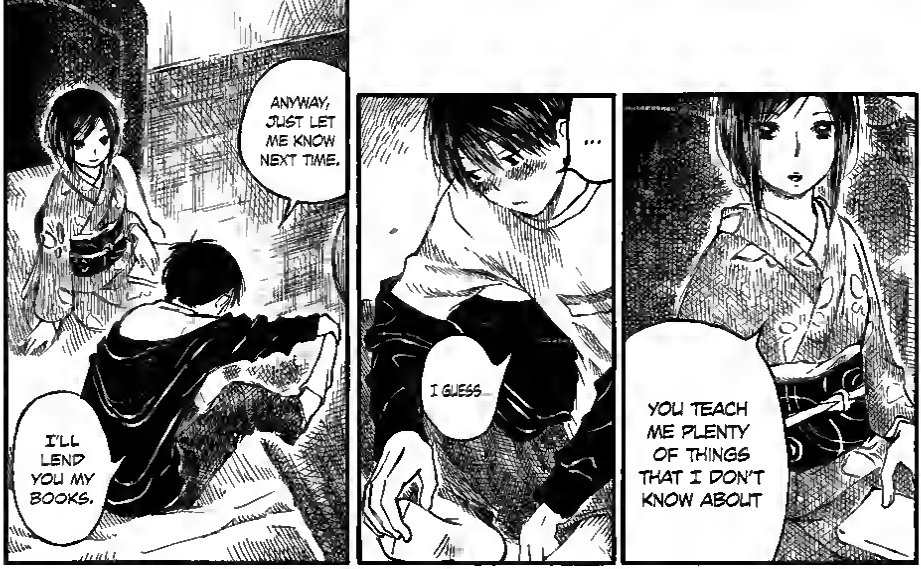
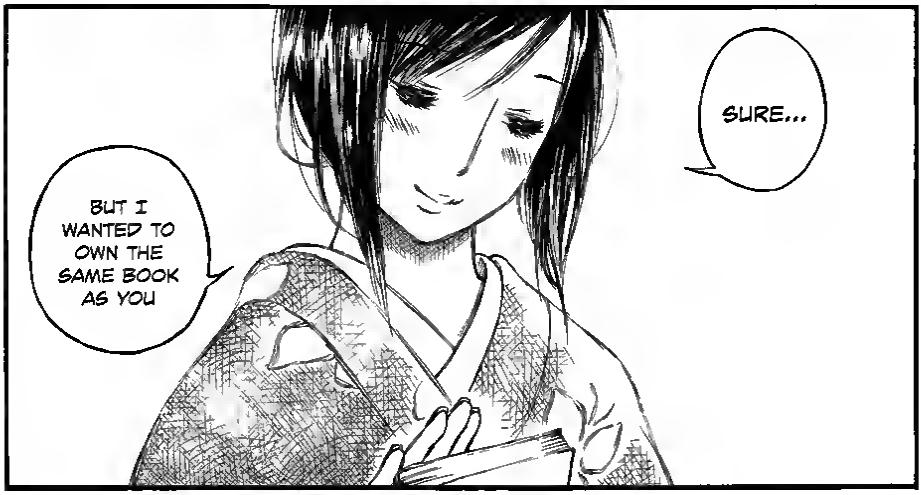
HM...
ALRIGHT.
I'M JUST ABOUT TO START
DONE ALREADY?

OH MY, IT CAN
EASILY.
HM?
OH?
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOUR KIMONO WILL GET DIRTY.
YOU'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT OTHER THINGS, HAVEN'T YOU?
CAN YOUR HAND REACH THIS FAR?
AH, I CAN SEE YOU!
WHAT'RE YOU UP TO?

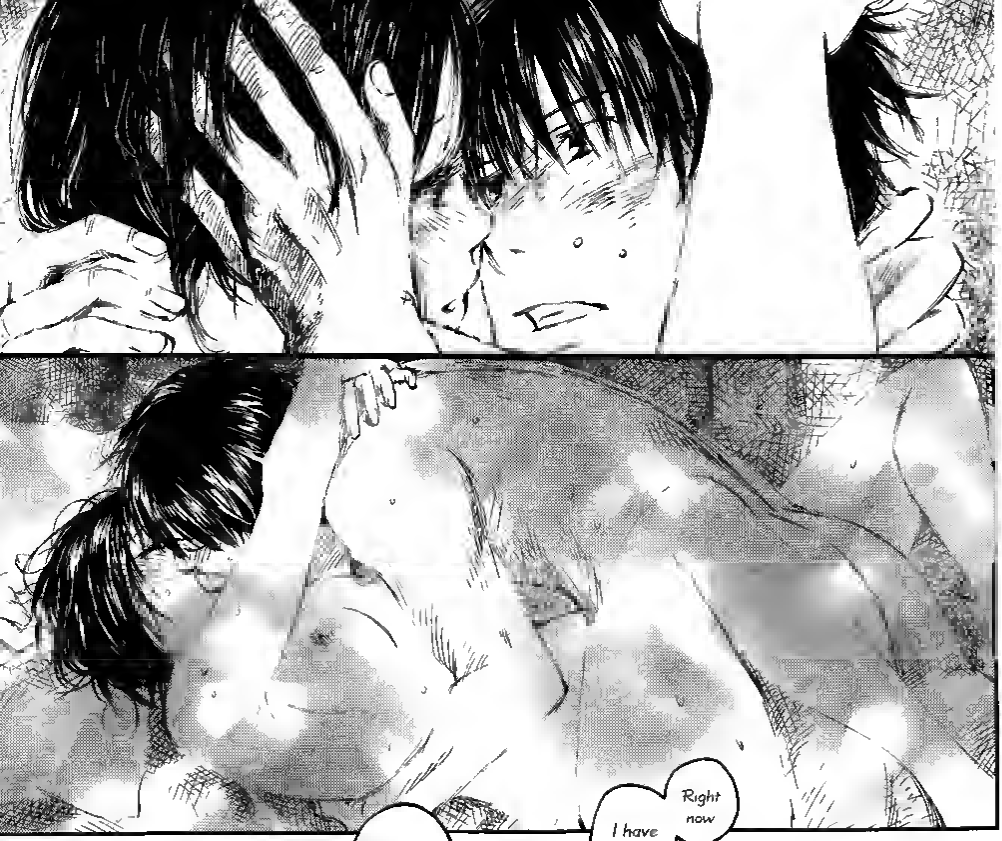
[CHAPTER 13] Eccentricities

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
I DRANK TOO MUCH
WE'RE BACK.
THANKS FOR HAVING ME OVER.
He's humming
fu fu
WHAT, YOU'D NEVER READ IT?
IT'S QUITE INTERESTING
NOPE.
I HAPPENED BY IT AT THE BOOKSTORE YESTERDAY AND BOUGHT IT.
IT'S MINE.
HEY
?
THIS BOOK...
...WAIT
I THOUGHT SOMEONE LIKE YOU WOULD HAVE ALREADY KNOWN EVERYTHING I'D READ.
HUH...
NO WAY!
ゴッホの手紙 下


ANYWAY, JUST LET ME KNOW NEXT TIME.
I'LL LEND YOU MY BOOKS.
...
I GUESS...
YOU TEACH ME PLENTY OF THINGS THAT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT


SURE...
BUT I WANTED TO OWN THE SAME BOOK AS YOU

Don't be so rough!
No...
Whump
KYA!
C'MERE!
T-THEN I'LL DO IT GENTLY...
STOP IT!
THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN BE ROUGH IS ME!
...



SIGN: HIYOSHIGAOKA ART COLLEGE

ジャ
ジャン
ジャジャン
ジャジャン
SFX: STRUM STRUM~
WESTERN ART
RESEARCH
BUILDING

AAH, NO SMOKING, GOT IT. RIGHT?
NOTHING LIKE THAT.
WERE YOU GETTING SCOLDED BY IIJIMA -SENSEI?
AH, DRAWING SUNFLOWERS ARE WE?
DIDN'T AOKI -KUN ALSO DRAW THESE A LOT LAST YEAR?
GUESS EVERYONE'S THE SAME, HUH?
THAT'S ALREADY AN OLD SKETCH.
RIGHT NOW.
I WANT TO DRAW RIGHT NOW
THE "ME" NOW CAN DRAW EVEN PRETTIER FLOWERS!
OH MY?
WHAT'S THIS?
WERE YOU ALWAYS SOMEONE THAT WAS ABLE TO SAY THIS KIND OF THING SO CONFIDENTLY?
...

INOUE!
PAINTING IS WHAT I LOVE!
What's with that weird laugh...
YOU'RE LAUGHING TOO MUCH.
...
But—
Sor—
PFF
PFF
I ALREADY KNOW THAT!

That's right
Right now I'm free!
Since I know a beautiful flower
It's not a lie!
A summer flower, even though it's not summer
I want to paint it now
Don't hesitate!
I've decided to do this.
I think I'll paint sunflowers
Not there...

SFX - STRUM STRUM~
ジャン
ジャカジャン
...
ジャカジャン
ジャカジャン
I just don't have enough info on her.
That's the only place I've ever seen her too.
Wonder if there's some other way...
I GOT DUMPED YESTERDAY.
AOKI.
WHA...
I'M SO HUNGRY, BUT SHE AIN'T THERE~
DIDJA KNOW? IT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR MEN TO JUST BE NICE.
...YOU TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING?
HEY,
CAN YOU NOT PLAY SUCH A GLOOMY TUNE?
SFX - SIZZLEEE
じゃー

Y'KNOW, LET'S JUST EAT, DRINK, AND CALL IT A DAY.
WELL, UH...
chunk
AOKI!!
"clink"
"clink"
PLEASE MARRY ME!!
BUT YOU SAID AROUND FALL LAST YEAR THAT YOU WERE GOING OUT WITH AN OFFICE WORKER...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHOSE...
WHO WOULD?
THE GIRL-FRIEND.
WHOSE?
EXACTLY HOW LONG AGO ARE WE EVEN TALKING ABOUT?
LAST YEAR..?
YOUR GIRL-FRIEND...
YOU SAID SHE WAS AN OFFICE WORKER, RIGHT?
THEN SHE'D BE OLDER...?

Guess I didn't have to go so far and cook hamburgers.
Also, why am I doing the dishes...?
AFTER TALKING ABOUT IT, I FEEL A WHOLE LOT BETTER!
GOOD FOR YOU.
THANKS A LOT!!
AFTER THAT, AOKI WAS FORCED TO LISTEN TO THE LAST HALF YEAR OF MORI'S LOVE LIFE, FOR AN ENTIRE HOUR

I GET THE FEELING THAT I CAN MEET SOMEONE SPECIAL AGAIN!

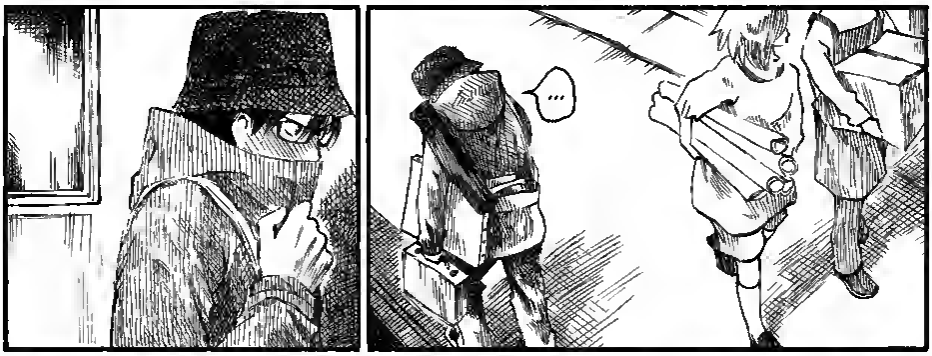
NOT GONNA PERFORM IT LIVE, THEN?
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU SING IT EXCEPT FOR WHEN YOU'RE ALONE.
WHOSE SONG DID YOU THINK IT IS?
OH, YOU COMPOSED IT?
NOT YET.
DID THAT SONG FROM BEFORE HAVE A TITLE?

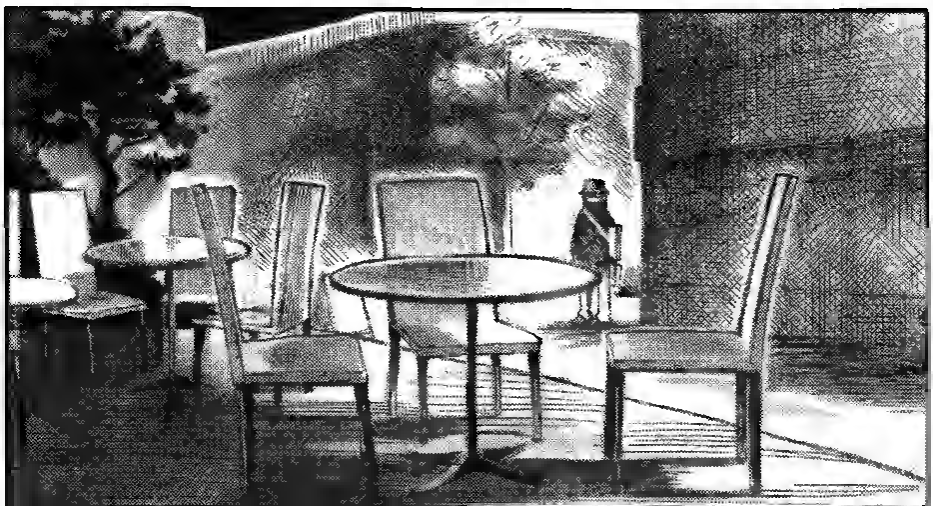
Tetsuo is beginning to move forward

I can continue to watch you grow...
Is he looking at the sakura blossoms?
He looks happy
He doesn't talk much but...
Like always
TAKEHISA YUMEJI EXHIBIT
FINAL DAY
本日最終日
I REALLY OWE YOU ONE, AKIRA-SAN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AH!!

MY APPETITE HAS BEEN OFF THE CHARTS LATELY...
I MEAN, LAST NIGHT AOKI-KUN COOKED ME A HAMBURGER, AND EVEN THOUGH I WOLFED THAT DOWN, I'M ALREADY HUNGRY AGAIN!
SO YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE FEAST-OR-FAMINE TYPE OF PEOPLE, HMM?
?
?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DON'T HAVE THE MONEY TO OPEN AN EXHIBITION...
THANKS FOR THE MEAL!!
BUT I GOT DUMPED BY MY GIRL, AND TURNED DOWN BY AOKI...
nod nod
HIS COOKING'S GREAT, TOO! HE'LL MAKE A GREAT WIFE SOMEDAY.
munch
AOKI-KUN DID?
That was really fun!
we played some improv music with my guitar
After that, me and Aoki—
I LOVE HIM!!
MY, HOW HONEST!
YOU REALLY LIKE AOKI-KUN, DON'T YOU!
fufu~
OH, AND THEN ME AND AOKI—

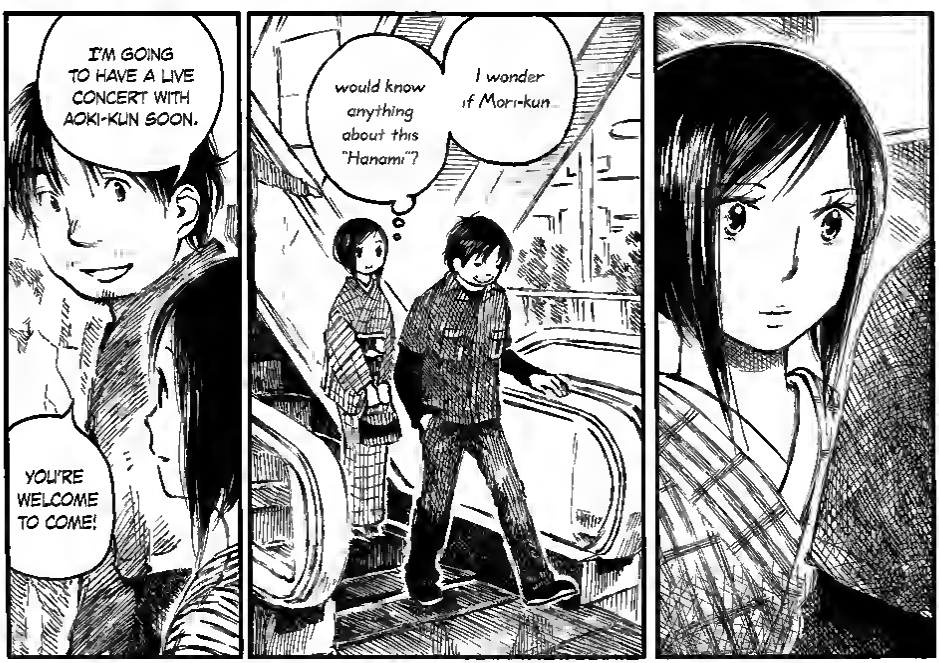
...
DID TETSUO TELL YOU?
YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH HIM, RIGHT?
AREN'T YOU THE SAME?
NAH, HE HASN'T SAID ANYTHING.
JUST, YOU GUYS BEHAVE A BIT SUSPICIOUSLY, SO I FIGURED...
YOU TWO MAKE A GREAT COUPLE!
IT WAS FROM AROUND THE TIME HE DID HIS GRADUATION PROJECT, I THINK...
NAH, I'M PRETTY FULL ALREADY.
MORI-KUN, EAT AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE!
YOU CAN EVEN ORDER ANYTHING YOU WANT!
Fidget
Fidget





*ONIROKU DAN IS A FAMOUS SAW WRITER. ALSO MADE LOTS OF MOVIES
TAKEHISA YUMEJI EXHIBIT
AKIRA-SAN, HAVE YOU EVER READ ONIROKU DAN'S* "THE HERETICAL CROWD"?
DID YOU ENJOY IT?
...I'VE READ "FLOWER AND SNAKE".
WHAT'S THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN?
ER, WHAT I MEAN TO SAY IS...
"THE HERETICAL CROWD" IS A STORY ABOUT A PAINTER, ITOU SEIYU.
SEEMS LIKE YUMEJI IS GOING TO STEAL SEIYU'S MODEL AWAY.
OYOU, RIGHT?
EXACTLY, EXACTLY.
WHEN I LOOK AT PAINTINGS OF OYOU-SAN, I'M REMINDED OF THAT BOOK...
...
AH, I REALLY WANTED TO SEE THIS PAINTING. HOW INSPIRING!
...
YOU'RE REALLY TALKATIVE, AREN'T YOU?
hehe
AH, MY BAD.
NO, NOT AT ALL!
YOU'RE JUST THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF TETSUO...
IS AOKI-KUN GOING TO HAVE YOU MODEL FOR HIM?

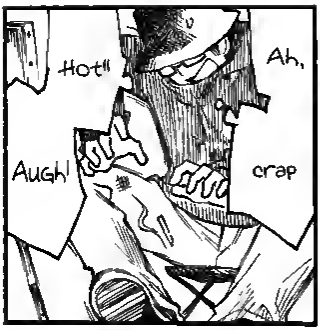
NO.
RIGHT?
REALLY? I THOUGHT THAT PERVERT WOULD'VE HAD YOU MODELING FOR SURE!

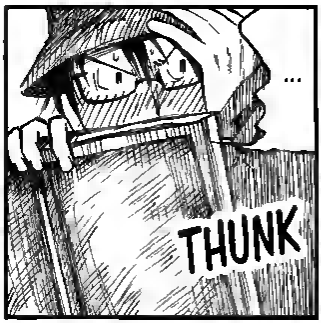

I'M GOING TO HAVE A LIVE CONCERT WITH AOKI-KUN SOON.
YOU'RE WELCOME TO COME!
I wonder if Mori-kun would know anything about this "Hanami"?

I really ought to stop worrying about this
Tetsuo has his own world he lives in
Let's visit another gallery sometime.
Thanks so much for today!
That's right...
Since then, I haven't had the chance to look inside his sketchbook again

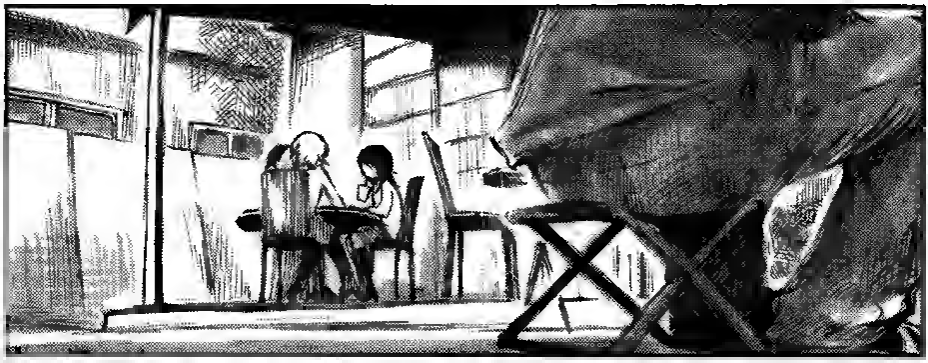
I wonder if Tetsuo still "finds himself watching" Hanami?

...
Trying to disguise himself
I...seriously am a creep aren't I?
At least I'm still self-conscious about it.
If you look at it this way with the red sunshade it's actually not bad.
It'll be even better if the sun sets a bit.
I thought before that this place is really boring but
!
But I guess it's good that I did
Well I brought all of this here only as camouflage.


Hot!!
Ah,
Augh!
crap


...
THUNK

She's here!!



Ah...

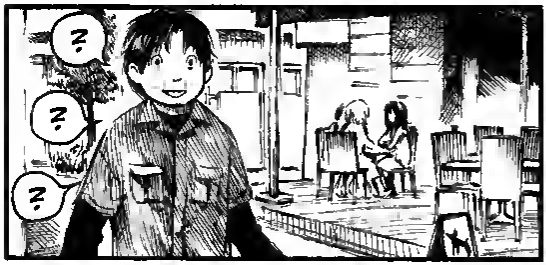
There's a brilliance to her expressions
As I thought she's beautiful
She's cute
has a nice figure
and it seems like...
she has a strong will
I like that part of her too...
...
What the hell am I even thinking ?

Should I
try and talk
to her?

It's not like I wont her to model for me
What would I even say?
I should probably try to do it when she's alo– No thot would just make her feel vulnerable and raise her guard
"I'm not anyone suspicious" is definitely out That's totally suspicious and would freak her out
...I should just go home
...
Is that it?
I may not always be able to see her here...

JUST SAY IT!
TELL HER STRAIGHT!
Aah screw it!
I FEEL LIKE
I CAN PAINT REALLY WELL WHEN I LOOK AT YOU!!
AOKI -KUN.

'SUP! ARE YOU PAINTING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
AND WHAT'S WITH THOSE CLOTHES...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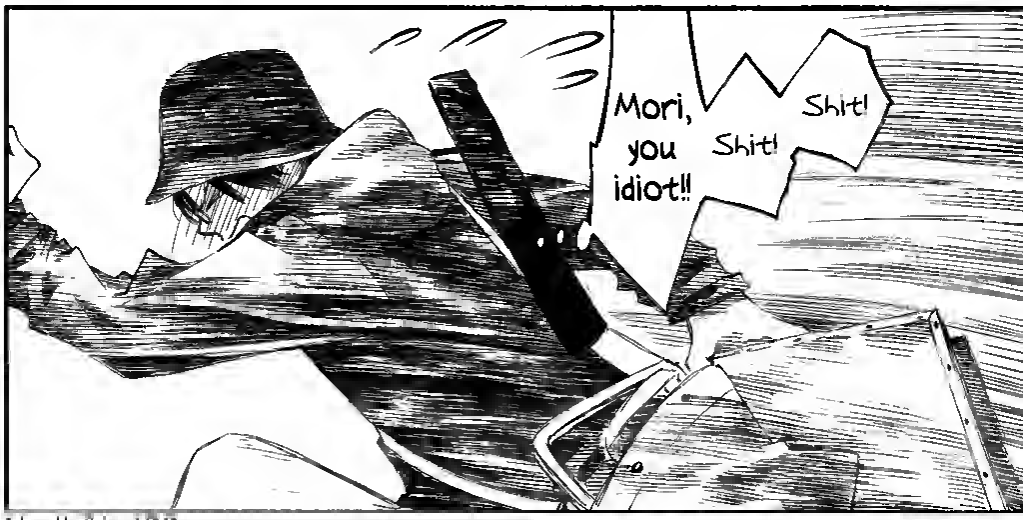
?
?

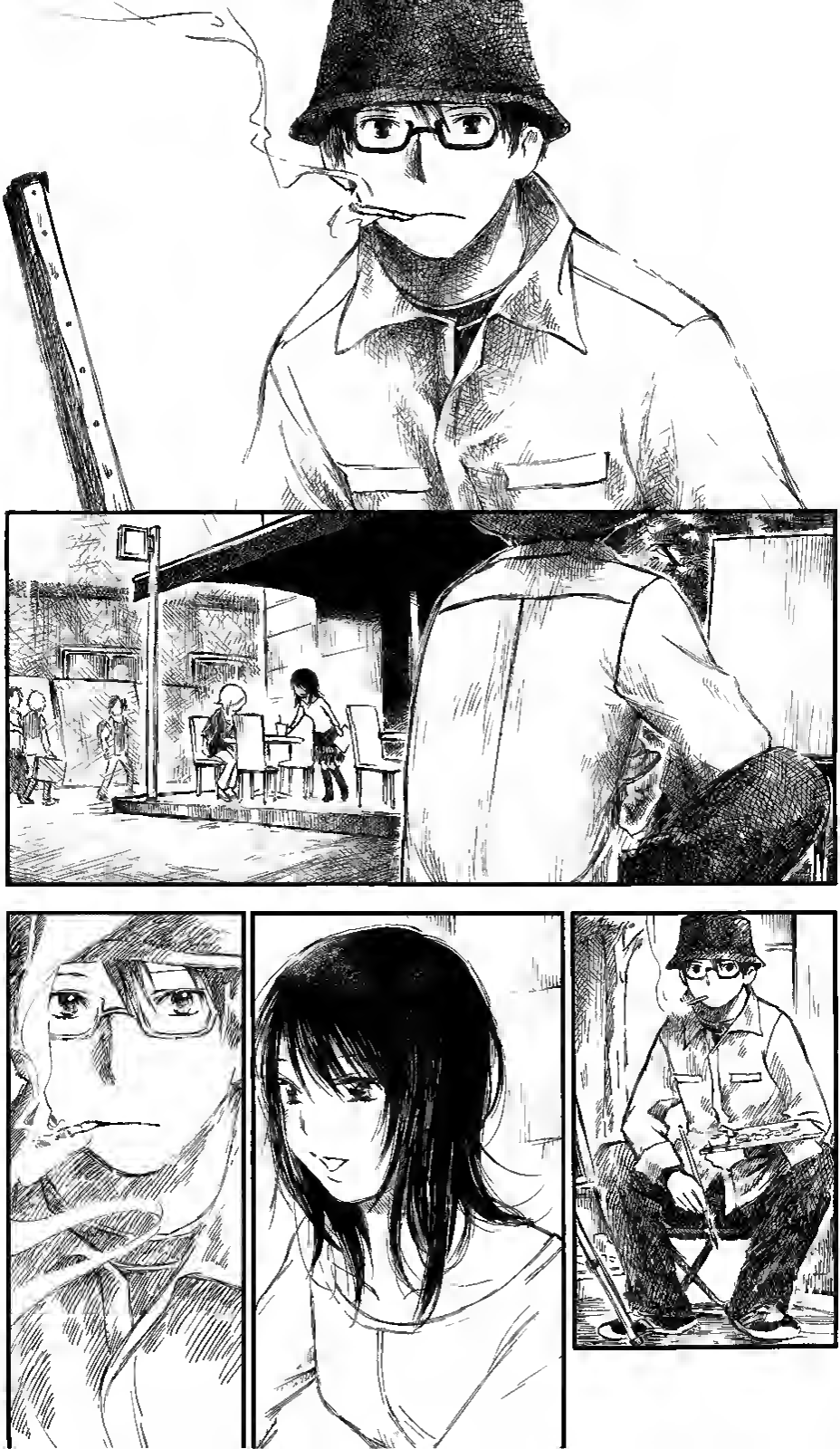

Mori, you idiot!!
Shit!
Shit!

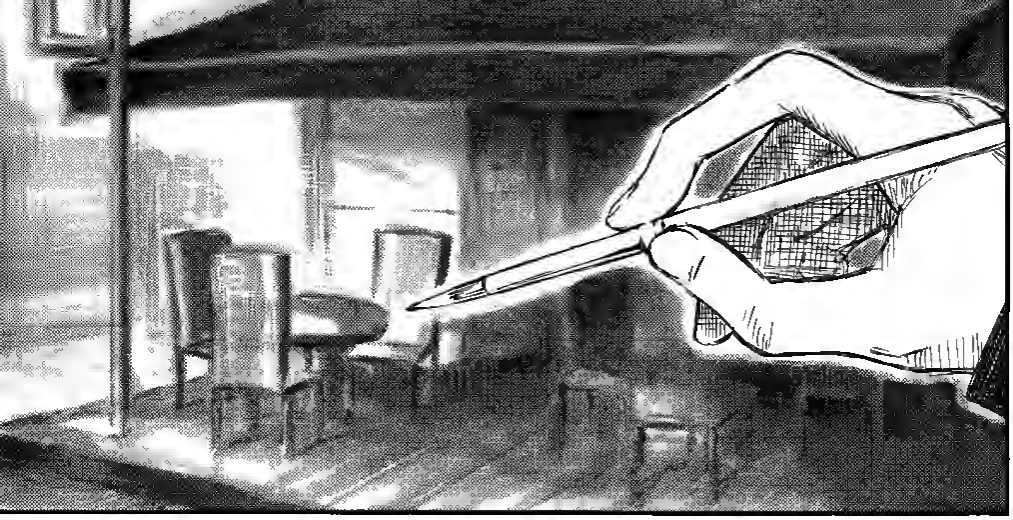
The trails are pretty
An airplane's..

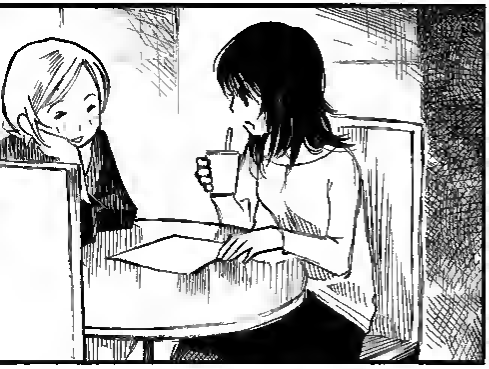
I've gotta keep my face covered with this hat
and look inconspicuous

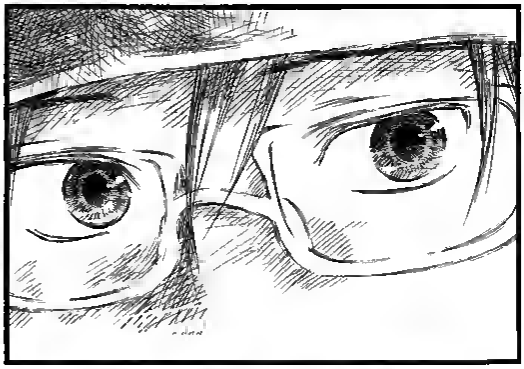
...

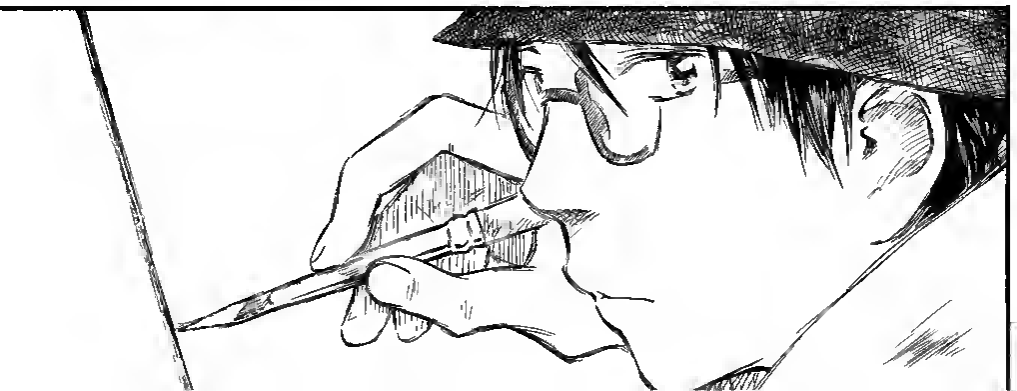
I'll finish it.
and stop with the "adulterous" actions from here on out
so I'll just have to do it like this.
I don't wanna leave this half done.

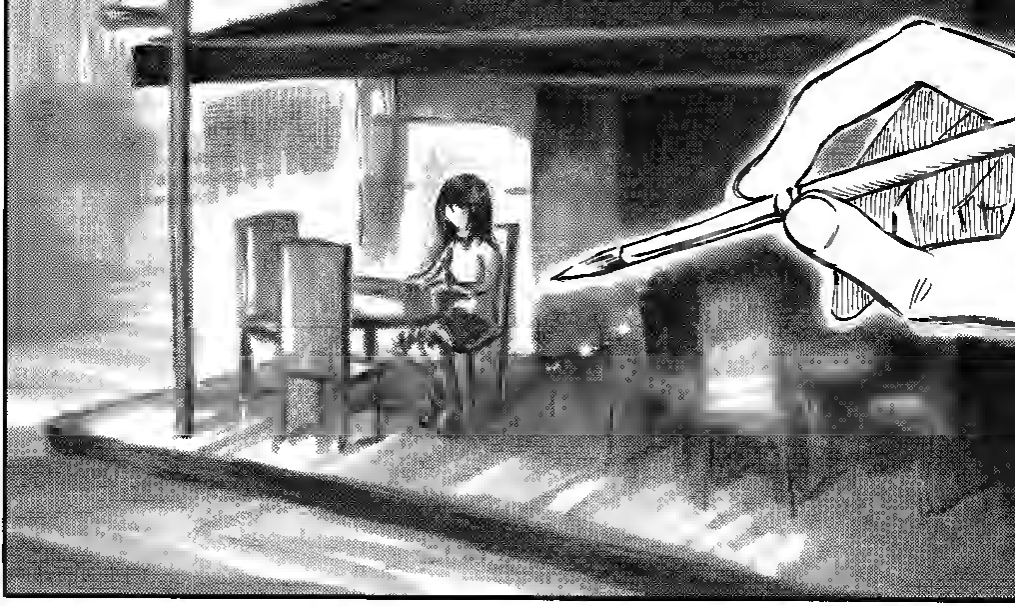


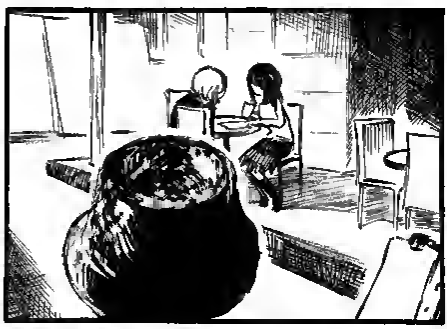




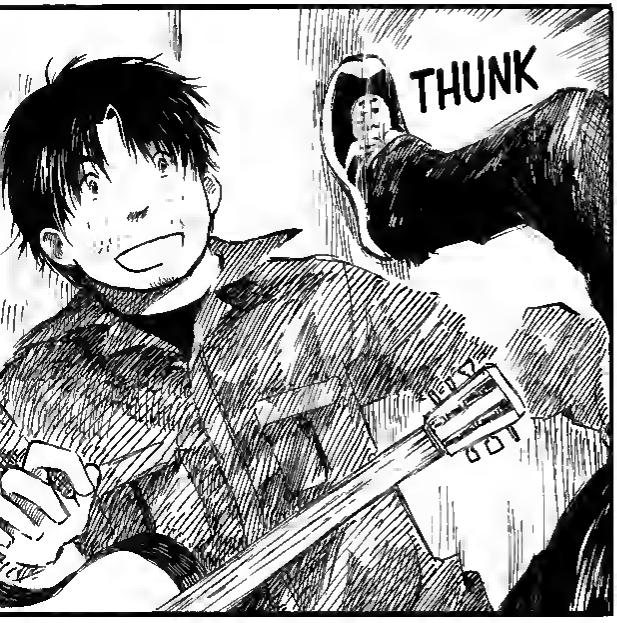


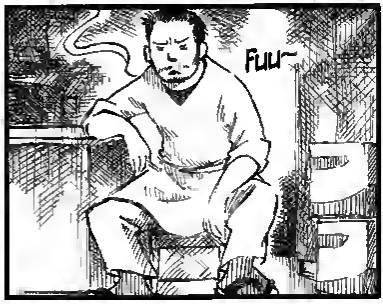


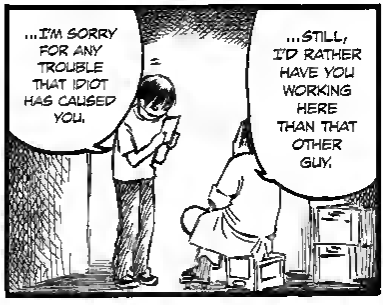




SIGN: CHINESE FOOD RYURYU

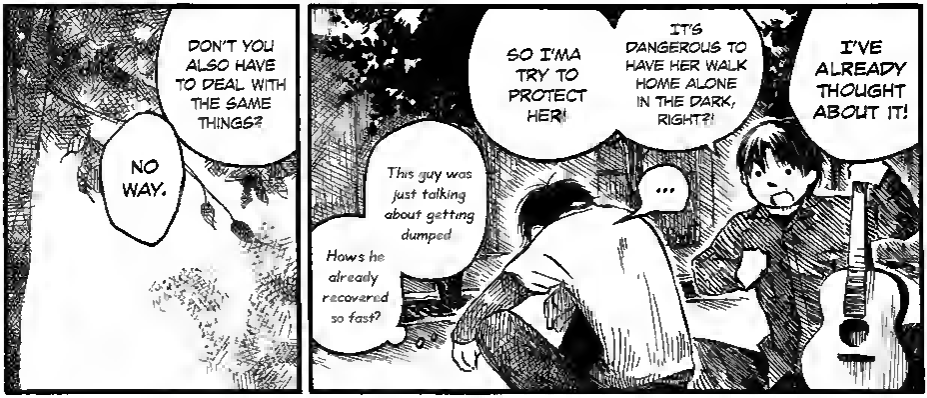


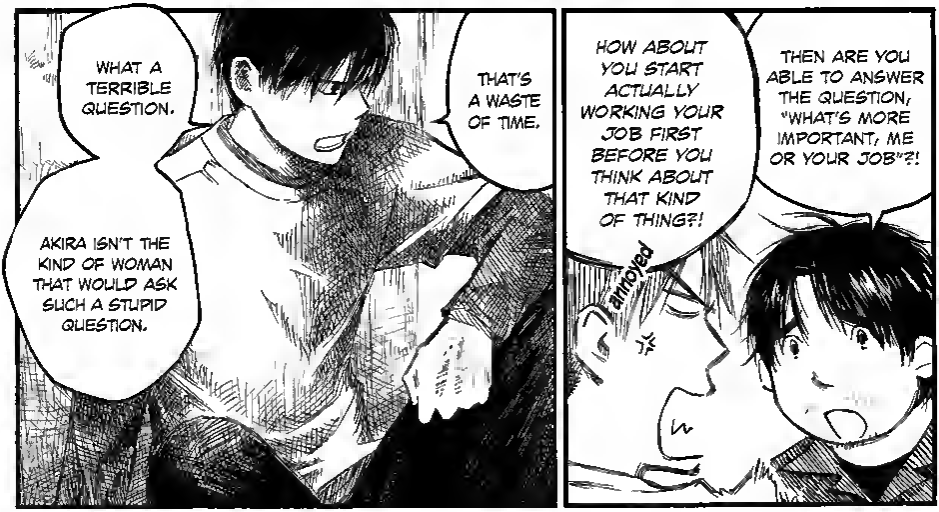




I JUST GOT YELLED AT THE WHOLE TIME!
THAT'S CAUSE HE LIKES YOU.
LET'S WORK THERE TOGETHER SOMETIME
I'M NEVER COVERING ANY MORE SHIFTS FOR YOU AGAIN, YOU GOT THAT?!
THANKS!
BET THE OLD MAN LIKED YOU A LOT!
NAH.
I DON'T NEED EXTRA WORK ANYMORE.
HAVING FUN AS AN ART TEACHER?
IT'S MORE LIKE...
EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST A PLACE FOR STUDENTS TO STUDY THE TECHNIQUES THEY NEED WHEN THEY TAKE ENTRANCE EXAMS...
THEY STILL ALL HAVE THEIR GOALS, SO I GUESS THEY HAVE SOME SPIRIT...
WELL, IT'S HARD TO DESCRIBE, BUT...
WATCHING OTHER PEOPLE CREATE SOMETHING ISN'T SO BAD.

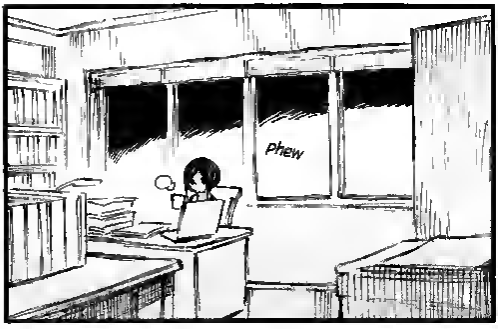
TRY USING YOUR HEAD SOMETIME!
YOU, TOO!
TAKING DAYS OFF FROM YOUR JOB JUST CAUSE OF SOME GIRL...
YOU MAKIN' FUN OF ME?
YOU'VE GIVEN THIS SOME THOUGHT, HUH!

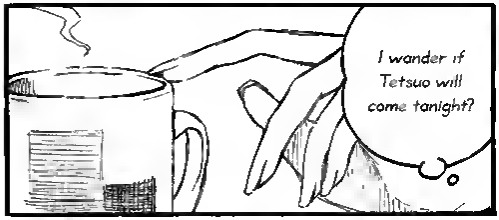

DON'T YOU ALSO HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE SAME THINGS?
NO WAY.
This guy was just talking about getting dumped
How's he already recovered so fast?
SO I'MA TRY TO PROTECT HER!
IT'S DANGEROUS TO HAVE HER WALK HOME ALONE IN THE DARK, RIGHT?!
...
I'VE ALREADY THOUGHT ABOUT IT!


WHAT A TERRIBLE QUESTION.
AKIRA ISN'T THE KIND OF WOMAN THAT WOULD ASK SUCH A STUPID QUESTION.
THAT'S A WASTE OF TIME.
HOW ABOUT YOU START ACTUALLY WORKING YOUR JOB FIRST BEFORE YOU THINK ABOUT THAT KIND OF THING?!
annoyed
THEN ARE YOU ABLE TO ANSWER THE QUESTION, "WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT, ME OR YOUR JOB"?!

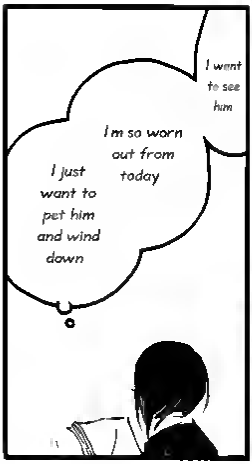
I DIDN'T SAY NOTHIN'.
...WHAT'RE YOU TRYIN' TO SAY?!
It is pretty dark
Or is it that a guy who can't care for a woman
can't properly do his job?
...
If a guy can't properly do his job how can he even take care of a woman?

SIGN: MOONLIT GALLERY





He did say he'd be waiting for the first coat of paint to dry.
Would it be okay to ask what kind of painting he wants to make...?
Will he just take his time with it?


I want to see him
I'm so worn out from today
I just want to pet him and wind down

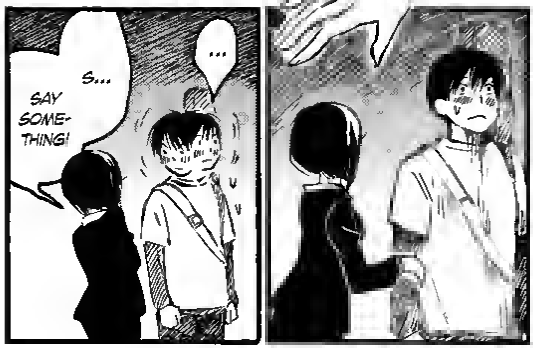
Will he paint outside like before ?

...
VROOM

TETSUO!

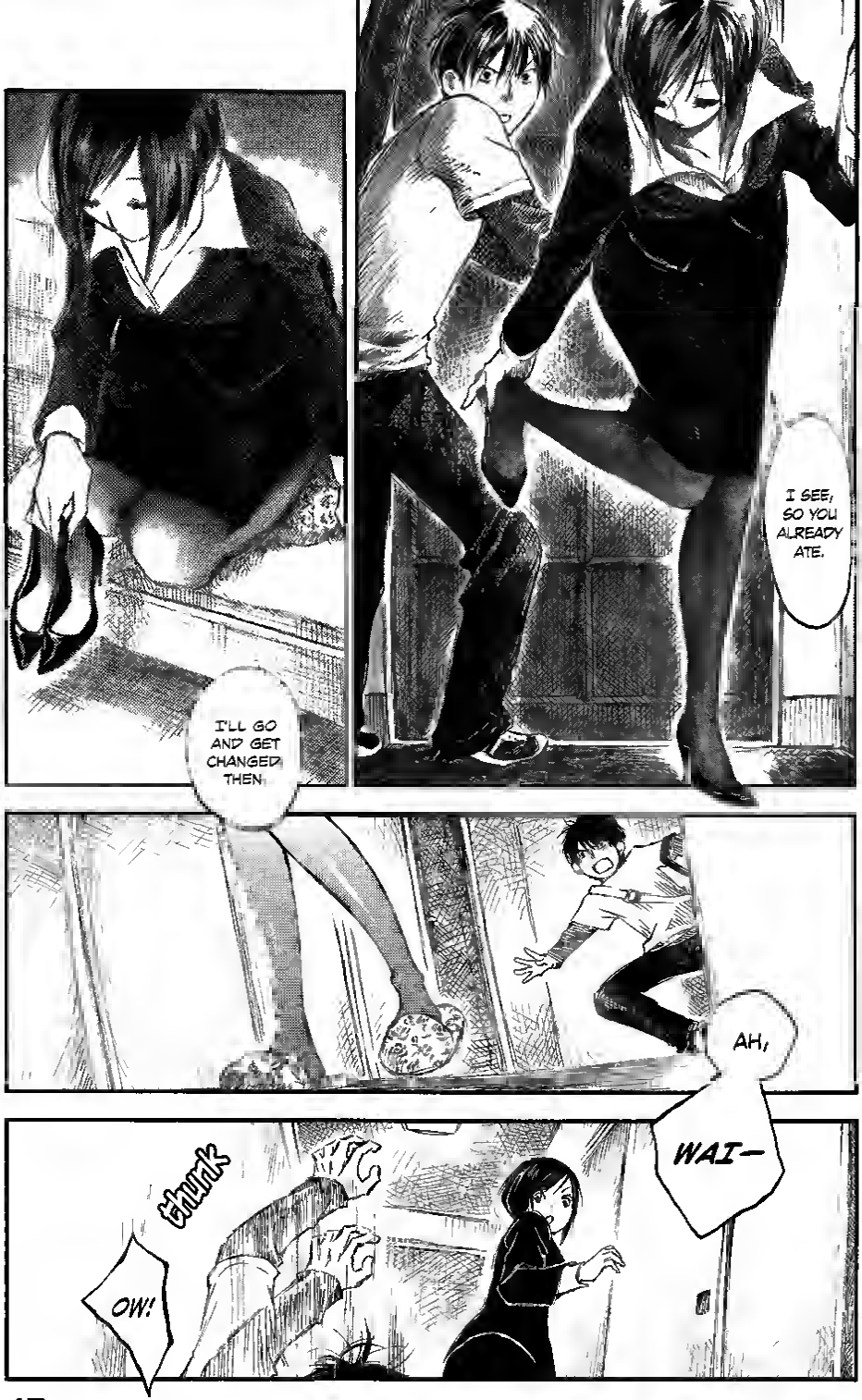
click
clack

!?
!?
!?
WHAT HAPPENED?!


...
S...
SAY SOME-THING!

THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF WHAT THAT OLD HOUSEWIFE WAS TELLING ME ABOUT.
LIKE WHAT?
IT'S AWFUL! SHE WAS SAYING HOW IT'S NICE THAT YOUNGER PEOPLE HAVE THE FREEDOM TO WEAR WHAT THEY LIKE.
oh ho ho

I-I WASN'T WAITING OR ANYTHING!
I JUST FINISHED WORKING AND HAPPENED TO COME BY!
OH~? JUST HAPPENED TO COME BY, HUH?
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO WAIT OUTSIDE. YOU COULD'VE CAME IN!
...WHY'S THAT AWFUL, THEN?
I DON'T WANT TO BE GROUPED WITH HER, ONLY WEARING KIMONO...
WHICH IS WHY I WORE MORE WESTERN CLOTHES TODAY.
Women are scary
PEEK
SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT DINNER?
UM...


I'LL GO AND GET CHANGED THEN.
I SEE, SO YOU ALREADY ATE.
AH,
WAI—
thunk
OW!

WAIT!!

What... is he doing...?

AH!!
CAN I TOUCH YOU?
CAN...
AGH...
WA—
WAIT, WAIT!
TH— AAH...
So he likes it...
...
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
SO THIS IS THE KIND OF THING YOU LIKE?

LIKE THIS BETTER, THEN?
BETTER THAN JAPANESE CLOTHES?
SO YOU...
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?
JAPANESE CLOTHES ARE REALLY GOOD.
GREAT!!
Thank goodness...

...THAT ARE BEAUTIFUL ARE GOOD THINGS!
UM...
SO...
ALL THINGS...
YOU MEAN THAT I'M BEAUTIFUL?
...
I MEAN—!
!
thump

Guess I said it wrong
I guess I meant to say
that I like beautiful things..?

...
GOING HOME?
YEAH.

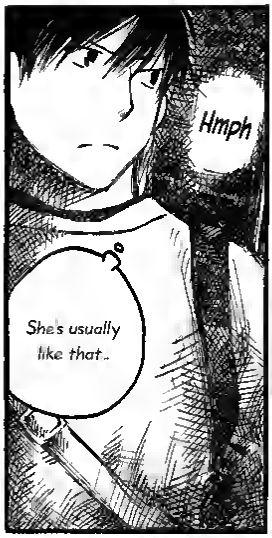
...
I SEE...
I'M... GOING TO DRAW SUNFLOWERS.

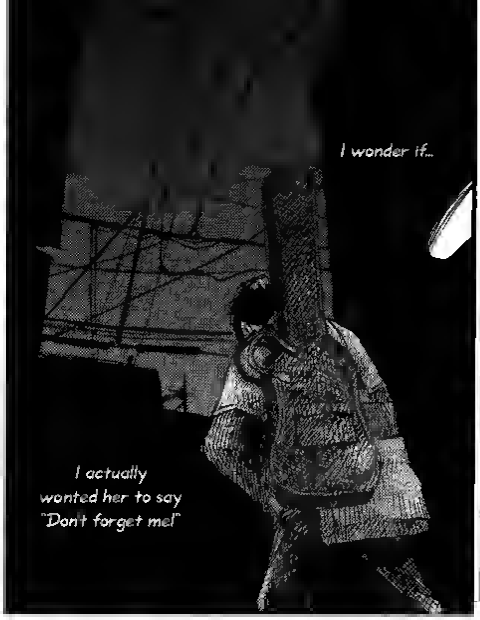
WHEN I DRAW, I FORGET ABOUT YOU.

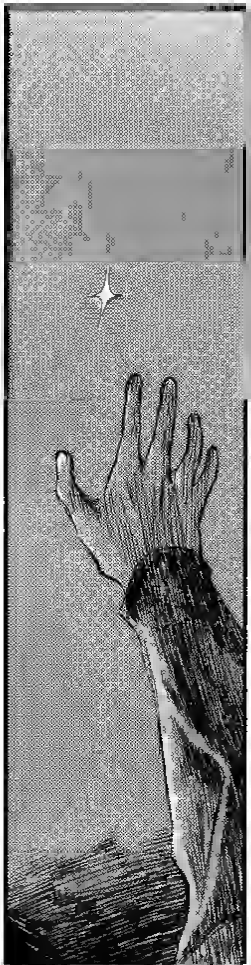
EVEN THE STOCKINGS, AND EVEN THE TABI*, TOO.
EVEN MY STOCKINGS?
*JAPANESE SPLIT-TOED SOCKS
BUT, ONLY WHILE I'M DRAWING!
MM.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT SOMEONE LIKE ME.
THAT'S FINE. I UNDERSTAND.

...
GOOD NIGHT.
GOOD NIGHT...

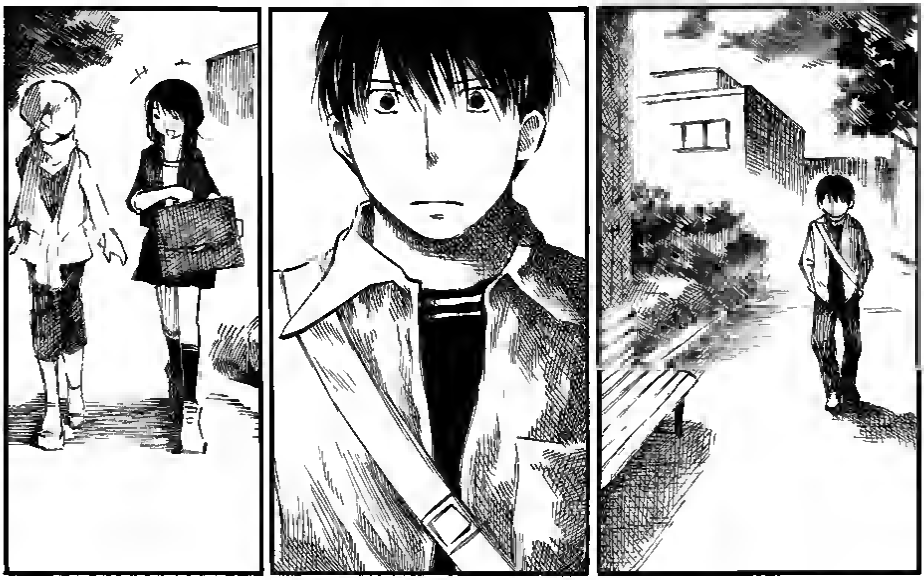






But Akira decided not to be.

di-ng
do-ng



I'm serious!
Really?

It's not like I wanted to actually get to know her
She was merely an inspiration.
We haven't even talked

Her name
But
that simply makes me all the more curious
Her major
Her year
What other places she likes to go
What books she likes to read
What kind of music she listens to
What movies she likes
What she does in her free time.
If she has a boyfriend
...
What good would it do to know that ?

LET'S DRAW!
I want to draw!
I'll be satisfied if I just draw

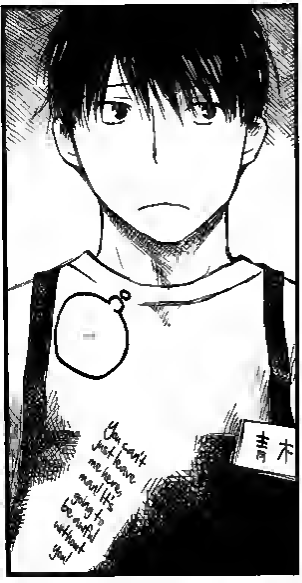
KYA AAA AAA AH~
夏の前日
SFX: CRACKLE CRACKLE
SFX: BOOOOM
SFX: CRACKLE
OH, I HATE THUNDER SO MUCH!
OH NO! IT'S REALLY STARTED RAINING, TOO.
Their screaming is more scary
YOU DON'T HAVE AN UMBRELLA?
I THINK WE HAVE AN EXTRA ONE IN THE STAFF ROOM.
REALLY?
ざっ
ばらばらばら
夕凪絵画教室
夕凪絵画教
SIGN: YUUNAGI ART SCHOOL
"Aoki -sensei."
eh?
THANK YOU, SENSEI!
GOODBYE, AOKI -SENSEI!
YEAH, GOODBYE.

[CHAPTER 15] Contradictions

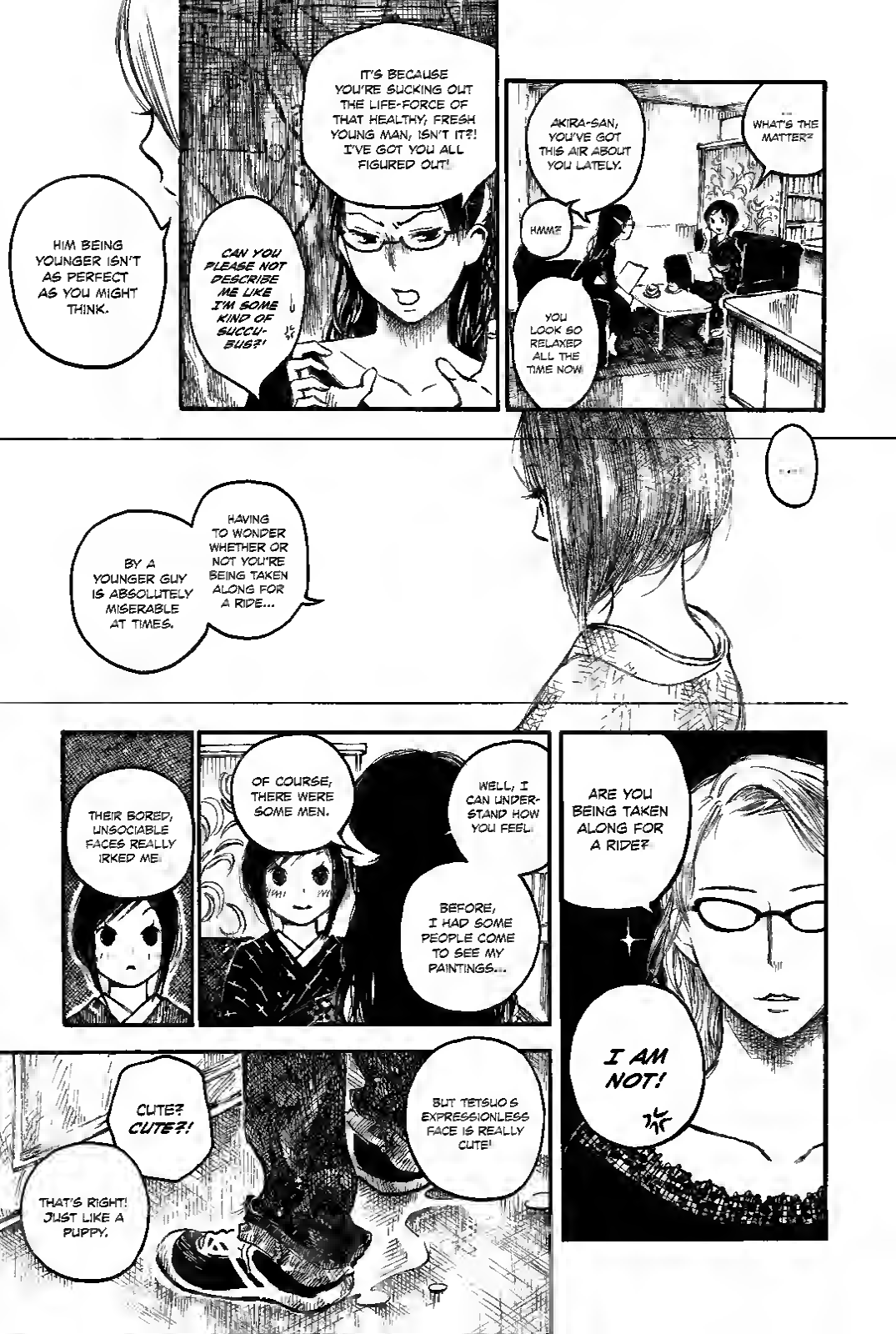
SIGN: SUNRISE ART SUPPLY

I'M GOING TO INCREASE MY WORKING HOURS OVER AT THE PREP SCHOOL..
AH, SO IT'D BE ROUGH TO HAVE TO WORK BOTH JOBS, HUH...
WAIT, DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO QUIT WORKING HERE?!
THAT I CAN'T SAY...
CAN'T SAY?!

SFX: STRAIGHT FACE



Rain...
maybe later
Even now if I recall the events that took place that night
When I walk down this street in the rain
...
It brings me back to that day
stare
月下画廊
SIGN: MOONLIT GALLERY


IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SUCKING OUT THE LIFE-FORCE OF THAT HEALTHY, FRESH YOUNG MAN, ISN'T IT?! I'VE GOT YOU ALL FIGURED OUT!
CAN YOU PLEASE NOT DESCRIBE ME LIKE I'M SOME KIND OF SUCCU-BUS?!
HIM BEING YOUNGER ISN'T AS PERFECT AS YOU MIGHT THINK.
AKIRA-SAN, YOU'VE GOT THIS AIR ABOUT YOU LATELY.
HMM?
YOU LOOK SO RELAXED ALL THE TIME NOW.
...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
...
HAVING TO WONDER WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE BEING TAKEN ALONG FOR A RIDE...
BY A YOUNGER GUY IS ABSOLUTELY MISERABLE AT TIMES.
THEIR BORED, UNSOCIABLE FACES REALLY IRKED ME.
OF COURSE, THERE WERE SOME MEN.
WELL, I CAN UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL.
BEFORE, I HAD SOME PEOPLE COME TO SEE MY PAINTINGS...
ARE YOU BEING TAKEN ALONG FOR A RIDE?
I AM NOT!
CUTE? CUTE?!
THAT'S RIGHT! JUST LIKE A PUPPY.
BUT TETSUO'S EXPRESSIONLESS FACE IS REALLY CUTE!

AH!
BUT IF I HAD TO SAY, HE LOOKS MORE FELINE, I THINK.
YES,
MUCH LIKE KAYO YAMAGUCHI'S "BLACK PANTHER"...
SPACE. THUNK
SUNRISE ART SUPPLY! I HAVE A DELIVERY FOR YOU.
!

.....
SIGN HERE.
Uh oh
THANKS.
SFX: SLAM
Flap

TETSUO!
I'M SORRY!
IDIOT! YOU'RE GETTING ALL WET!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SAYING THAT MY ANGRY FACE WAS CUTE?
SO YOU BEG FOR FORGIVENESS WHEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES TURN SOUR, HUH?
THAT WAS JUST SMALL-TALK!
MORE LIKE YOUR TRUE FEELINGS?
PLEASE, DON'T BE ANGRY...

I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF MAKING A FOOL OUT OF YOU OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT
IT JUST MAKES ME WANT TO BRAG ABOUT IT...
...IT'S BECAUSE I LOVE YOU SO MUCH THAT I CAN'T HELP IT...
WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF
月下画廊

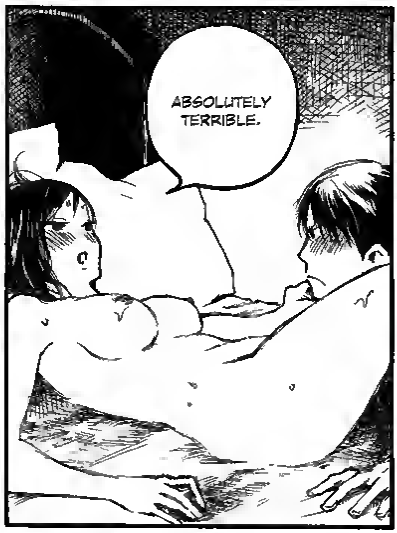
SEE YA LATER.
WE DID NOT.
DID YOU BREAK UP?
...
HYDRAN-GEAS?
A dog, huh?

THERE'S THIS AREA NEAR MY APARTMENT WHERE HYDRANGEAS BLOOM EVERY YEAR. IT'S VERY PRETTY.
FEW PEOPLE PASS BY THE AREA, SO IT'S REALLY GOOD FOR PAINTING.
IF I WANT TO PAINT THEM SOMETIME, NOW'S THE BEST TIME TO DO IT, RIGHT?
FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, THEY'RE GOING TO START BLOOMING SOON.
WEREN'T YOU GOING TO PAINT SUNFLOWERS?
I WILL.
BUT IT'LL TAKE TIME SINCE THEY'RE SO HUGE.
I WANT TO GO SEE THEM!
YOU CAN'T POSE FOR ME EVEN IF YOU COME.
SO YOU HAVE THINGS INSIDE THAT I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO SEE?
IT'S CRAMPED AND DIRTY ANYWAY.
YOU CAN'T
I'D ALSO LIKE TO SEE YOUR PLACE IF IT'S CLOSE

YOUR GUARD IS PRETTY TOUGH.
THERE'S NO SPACE, AND I DON'T WANT TO LET ANYONE IN THERE...
SFX: SSSSHHHH
I WANT TO TAKE A BATH FIRST...
TAKE IT AFTER.
SFX: SLIP SLIP

So forceful...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING.

SFX: HUFF



SFX: HUH

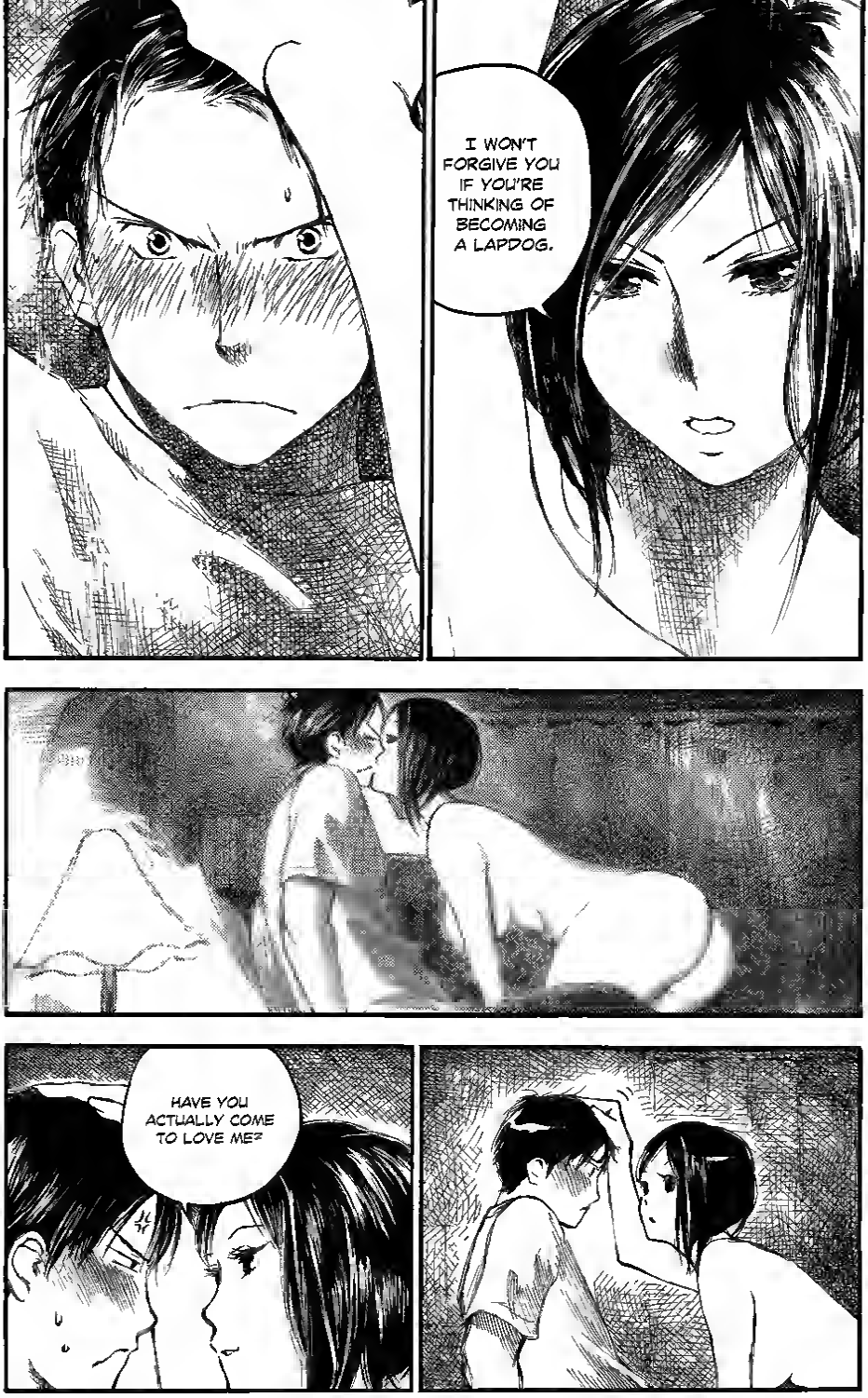
SFX: LOOM

YOU KNOW,
I'VE NEVER COME OUT AND SAID IT STRAIGHT B-T-
UMM,
...
ALL THIS TIME, I THOUGHT THAT I WOULD ACTUALLY SAY IT IF YOU HAD ASKED ME,
AND IT MIGHT NOT BE SOMETHING YOU FUSS OVER AS MUCH AS I HAVE BEEN...
BUT WE NEVER HAD ANY GOOD TIMING...

YO-
I LOVE
SO LISTEN UP!!
...
YOU'VE GOTTEN BETTER AT KISSING HAVEN'T YOU?

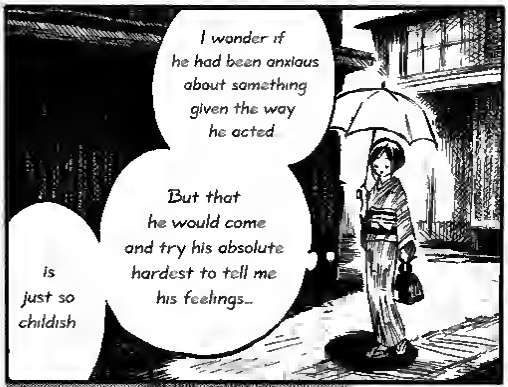
ARE YOU MAD?
WHATEVER.
I REALLY DO LIKE...
YOUR KISSES.
YOU CAN LIE WITH WORDS,
BUT WITH A KISS I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOU REALLY FEEL.

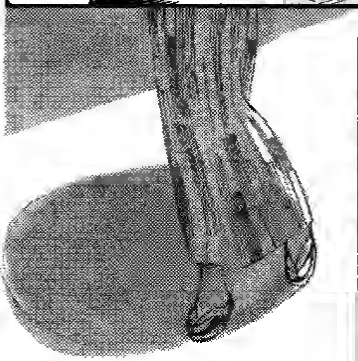
IF YOU UNDERSTAND, THEN FINE!
OH, REALLY?
TETSUO,
YOU DON'T LIKE TO BE TAMED AND TAKEN CARE OF, RIGHT?
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO SAID THIS WHILE PULLING AWAY FROM ME, RIGHT?
SAYING THINGS LIKE "I LOVE YOU" AFTER ALL THIS TIME... ARE YOU JUST TRYING TO FLATTER ME OR SOMETHING?


I WON'T FORGIVE YOU IF YOU'RE THINKING OF BECOMING A LAPDOG.
HAVE YOU ACTUALLY COME TO LOVE ME?

KYAA!
NOT HAPPEN-ING!
FUU
HUMID...
I've ended up completely in her palm, haven't I?
Just rolling rolling rolling around in her hands...
Shit!

SFX WHUMP

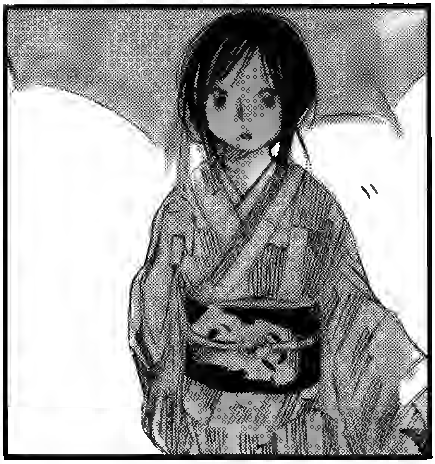

I wonder if he had been anxious about something given the way he acted...
But that he would come and try his absolute hardest to tell me his feelings...
is just so childish



You can't back out of having said something as harsh as "I forget about you" so easily

Ah...

I wonder if he couldn't decide?



YOU REALLY DECIDED TO COME, HUH?
OH, WOW!

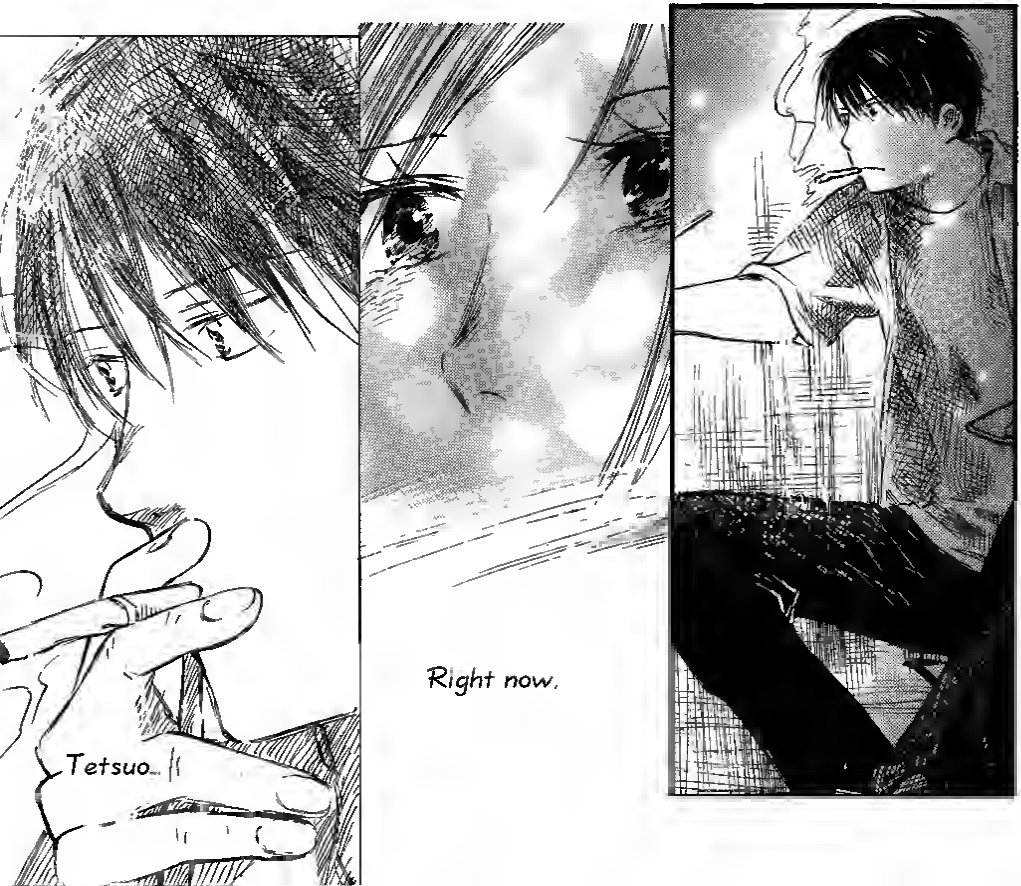
ACTUALLY, WHY DID YOU ONLY BRING FOOD FOR ME?
WHY NOT PREPARE FOOD FOR THE BOTH OF US?
THANKS FOR THE FOOD!!
ISN'T IT A BIT EARLY FOR LUNCH?
BUT I'M SO HUNGRY!
BECAUSE I'VE GOT AN APPOINTMENT LATER.
I SEE...
WHAT'RE YOU ANGRY ABOUT?
I DIDN'T COME ALL THE WAY HERE JUST TO WATCH YOU EAT LUNCH.
WHAT THE HELL? I DIDN'T EVEN ASK FOR THE FOOD...YOU JUST MADE IT AND GAVE IT TO ME.
AND NOW YOU'RE TELLING ME TO KEEP PAINTING BEFORE YOU'VE GIVEN ME ANY TIME TO EAT
ONE HECK OF A DRILL SERGEANT, AREN'T WE?

NO AMOUNT OF PAMPERING ME IS GOING TO GET YOU ANYWHERE.
DON'T JUST COME WAGGING YOUR TAIL EVERYTIME YOU SEE ME.
FEH!
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE CLEARLY IN LOVE WITH ME.
...YOU CAN'T TRICK ME SO EASILY...!
I WON'T BE BAITED INTO A FIGHT, NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY!
YOU TRYIN' TA LOOK DOWN ON ME?!
THAT'S RIGHT.

OF COURSE NOT!
YOU JUST TREAT ME LIKE A DOG ANYWAY!
EXACTLY HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU, IT SEEMS.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...
YOU MUSTN'T BECOME ONE!
YOU AREN'T A DOG!
What does she even want from me...?
OF COURSE NOT!

SFX CHIRP CHIRP
SFX PUU
Yes.

After all, this is when you are best.


Right now.
Tetsuo...

...is completely engulfed in his painting
Even though you have me now,
leaving me behind.
You cannot lose this overwhelming sense of solitude.
I must not interfere with this.

Ahh... I wish this moment would last forever.

I'LL TAKE YOU BA-
ANYWAY,
I'LL SEE YOU LATER.
...
ACTUALLY, DON'T COME HERE ANYMORE.

IF IT'S SUNNY TOMORROW, YOU'LL BE HERE, CORRECT?
YEAH...
I'LL BRING YOU LUNCH AGAIN THEN.
THAT'S FINE.
So what exactly does she want...?

I wonder if he still can't draw people's faces?

I wonder.
If I asked Tetsuo again to paint me...
If he would look at me with eyes like that...
Haaa
I'd probably go crazy

...I'm contradicting myself.

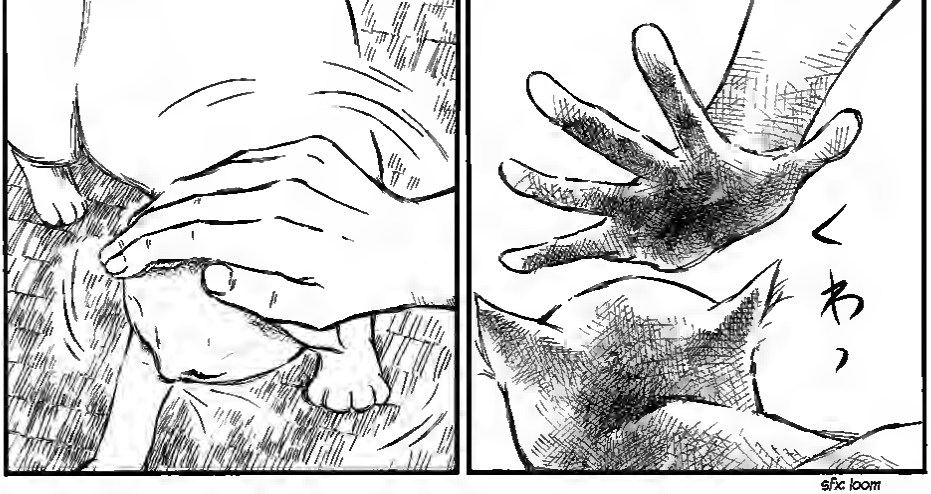
Being touched by someone

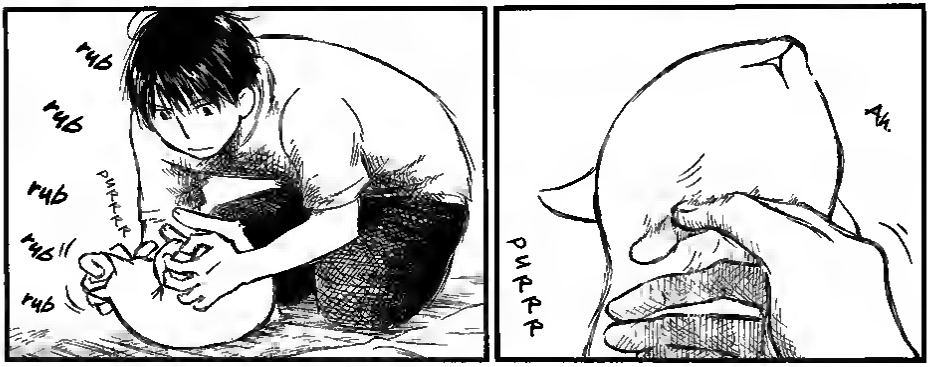
was a first for me.

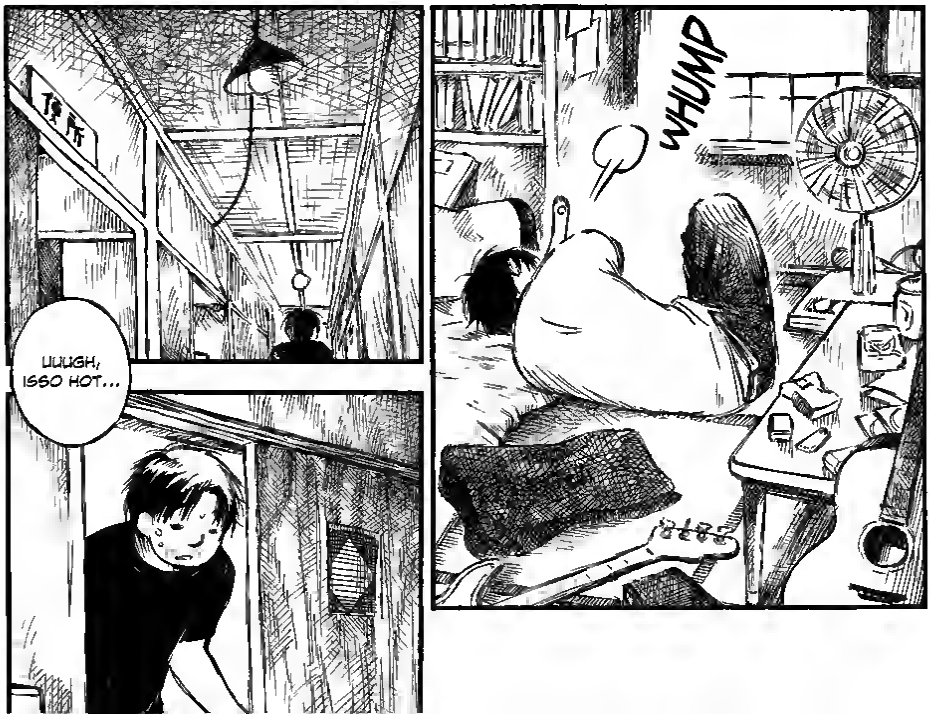
It was then I learned the meaning of warmth

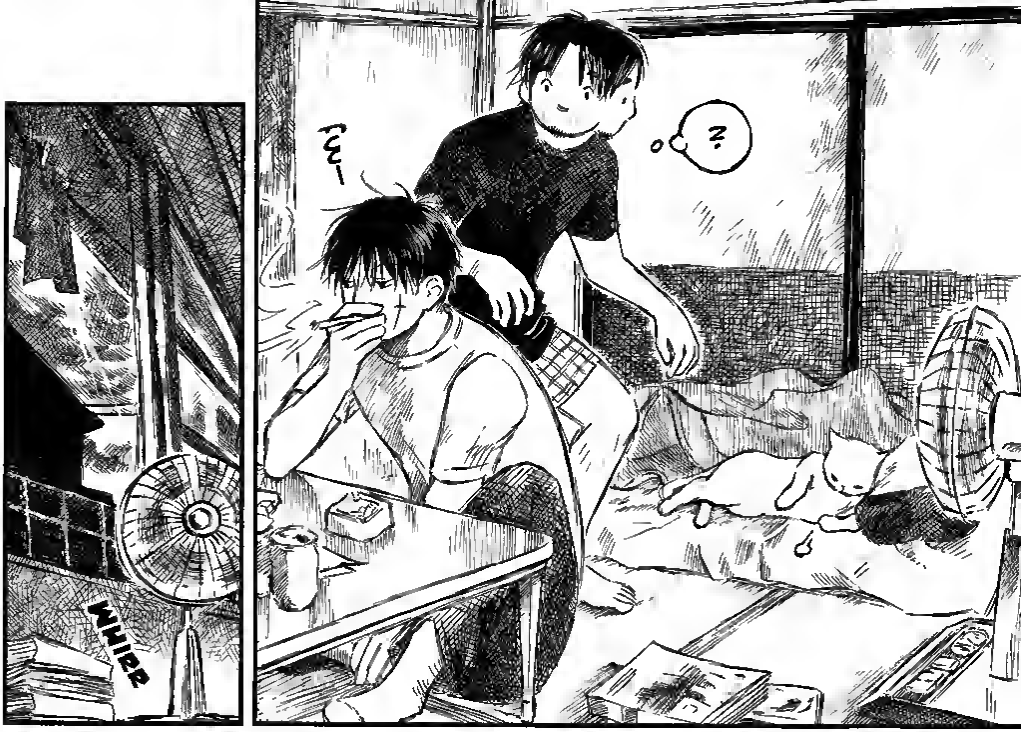
CHAPTER 16

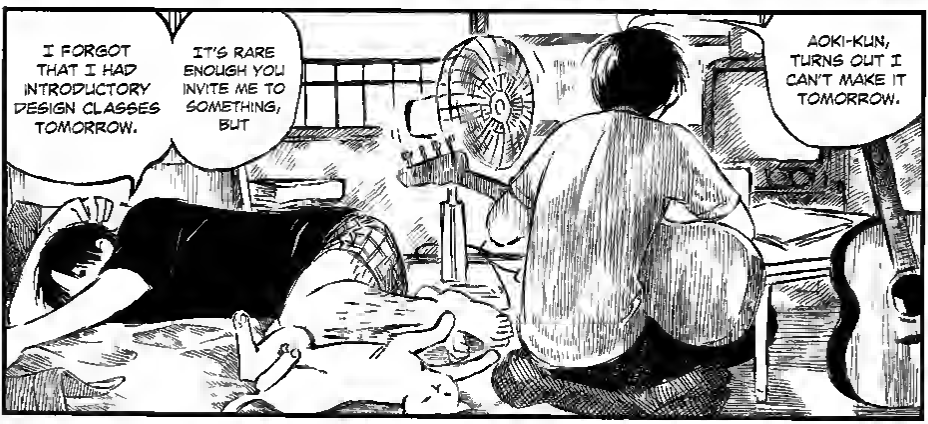
Being touched

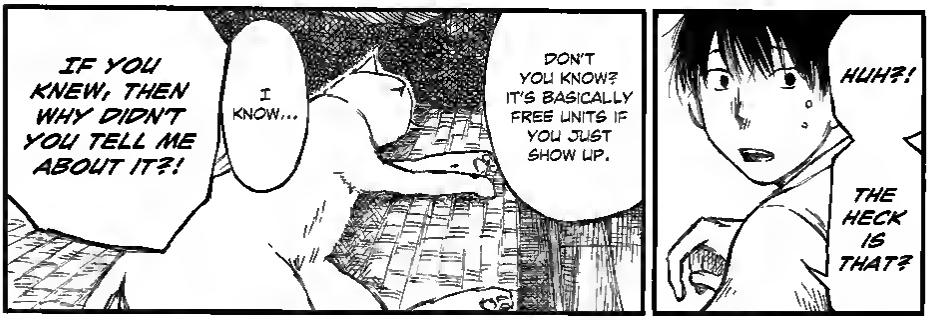

sfx: loom


rub
rub
rub
rub
rub
PURRR
AH
PURRR


WHUMP
UUUGH, ISSO HOT...


WHIRR
?

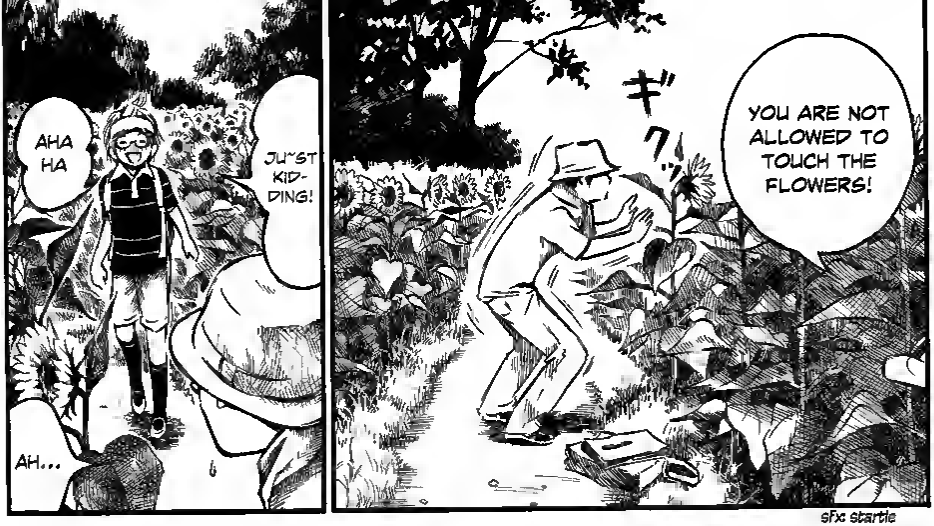

I FORGOT THAT I HAD INTRODUCTORY DESIGN CLASSES TOMORROW.
IT'S RARE ENOUGH YOU INVITE ME TO SOMETHING, BUT
AOKI-KUN, TURNS OUT I CAN'T MAKE IT TOMORROW.


IF YOU KNEW, THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT IT?!
I KNOW...
DON'T YOU KNOW? IT'S BASICALLY FREE UNITS IF YOU JUST SHOW UP.
HUH?!
THE HECK IS THAT?

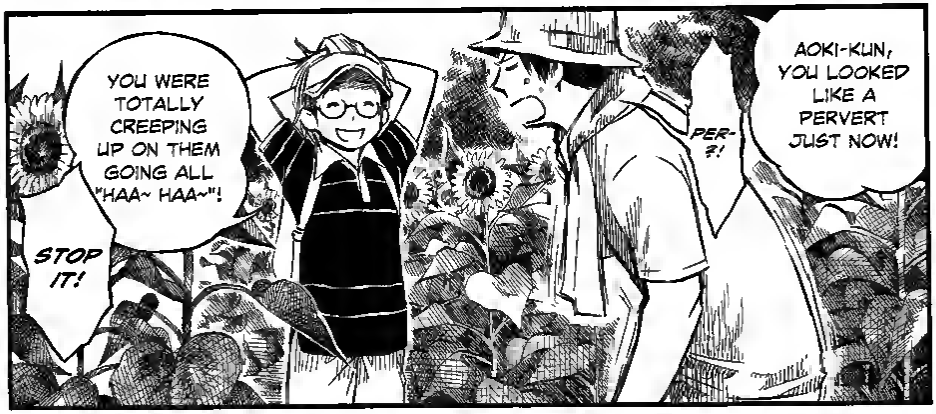
BUT WHY ARE YOU TAKING THAT NOW, AFTER ALL THIS TIME?
NORMALLY, YOU'D BE DONE WITH CREDITS AFTER A YEAR OR TWO...
AT THIS RATE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO GRADUATE IF I DON'T.
AHH, YOU TOOK TWO YEARS TO APPLY, AND REPEATED ONCE...
I'M NO GOOD
YEAH.
IT'S HARD
REALLY
TO PLAN THIS ALL OUT AHEAD OF TIME.
TO MAKE A PLAN AND FOLLOW IT THROUGH.
...
GOIN' TO WORK?
You're acting according to your plans, huh.
OF COURSE.

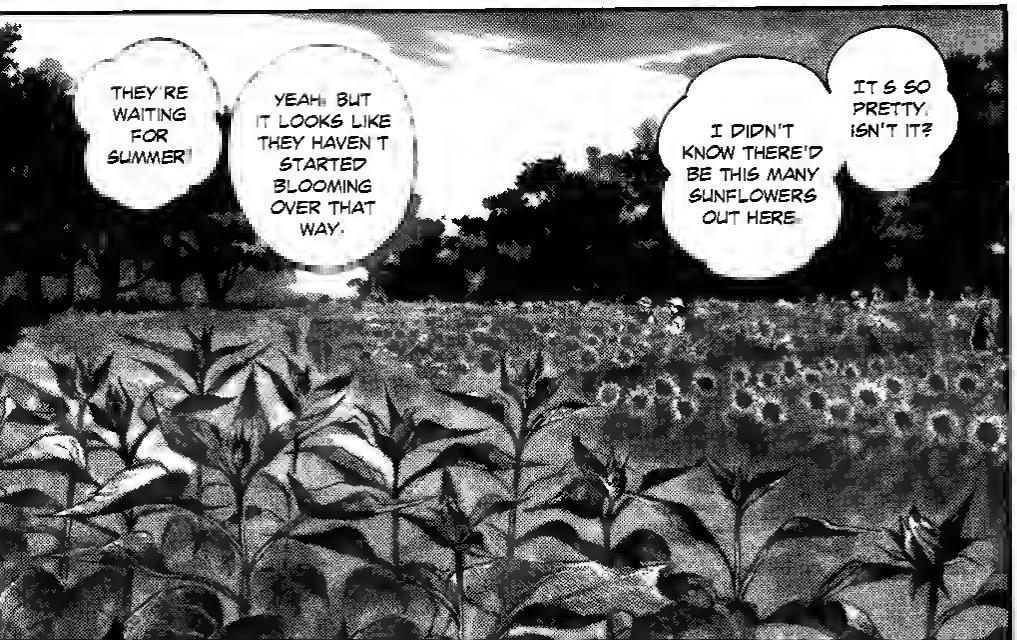
WELL, I'VE STILL GOT SOME TIME.
SHOULD I COOK LUNCH?
AOKI-KUN! YOU'VE GOTTA MARRY ME, MAN!
I LOVE YOU!!
G-
GET OFF ME.
AND YOU LOVE ME TOO, DON'T YOU?!
CALM DOWN A BIT!
OW!
TWIN
SERIOUSLY, COME LIVE TOGETHER WITH ME!!

DON'T GO TO YOUR FLOWER PARK AND COME TO DESIGN CLASS WITH ME INSTEAD!
WHY DO I HAVE TO GO?!
IT'S STILL JUNE, Y'KNOW?! SUNFLOWERS AIN'T EVEN BLOOMED YET, RIGHT?!
THEY ALREADY HAVE!
フラワーパーク
Sign: flower park
Banner: sunflower Festival
Flap Flap Flap

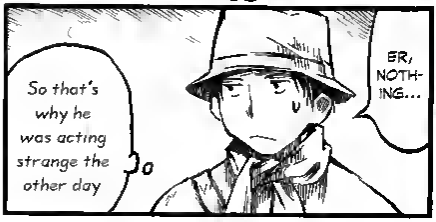

AHA HA
JU~ST KID-DING!
AH...
YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TOUCH THE FLOWERS!
ギク!!

sfx startle

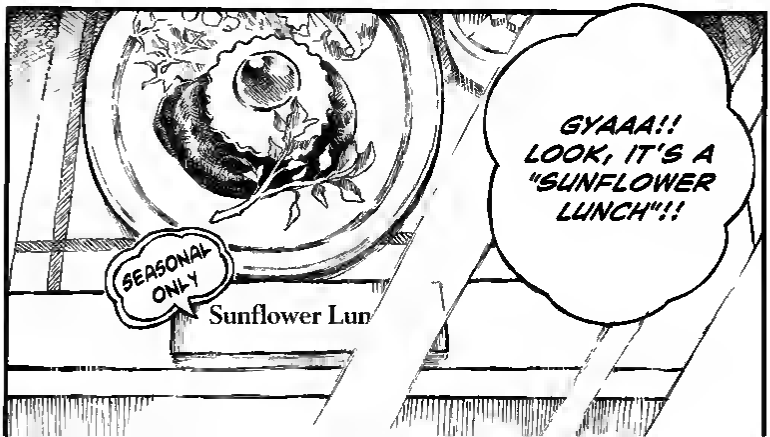

YOU WERE TOTALLY CREEPING UP ON THEM GOING ALL "HAA~ HAA~"!
STOP IT!
PER-?!
AOKI-KUN, YOU LOOKED LIKE A PERVERT JUST NOW!

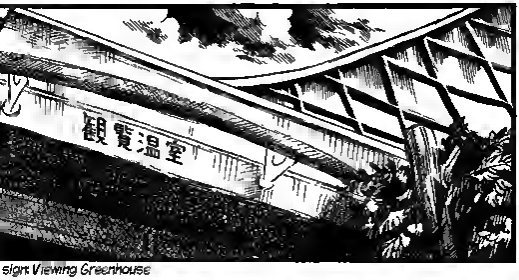

THEY'RE WAITING FOR SUMMER!
YEAH. BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THEY HAVEN'T STARTED BLOOMING OVER THAT WAY.
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE'D BE THIS MANY SUNFLOWERS OUT HERE.
IT'S SO PRETTY, ISN'T IT?

HUH? "AGAIN"?
WHAT?! AGAIN?!

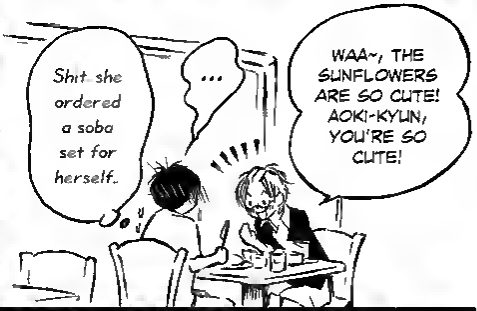

So that's why he was acting strange the other day
ER, NOTHING...

DID YOU KNOW? HE'S PRETTY HEARTBROKEN.
IT WOULD'VE BEEN NICE IF MORI-CHAN COULD COME, HUH?
POOR MORI, GETTING DUMPED...


GYAAA!! LOOK, IT'S A "SUNFLOWER LUNCH"!!
SEASONAL ONLY
Sunflower Lun
He's got a lot ta deal with huh

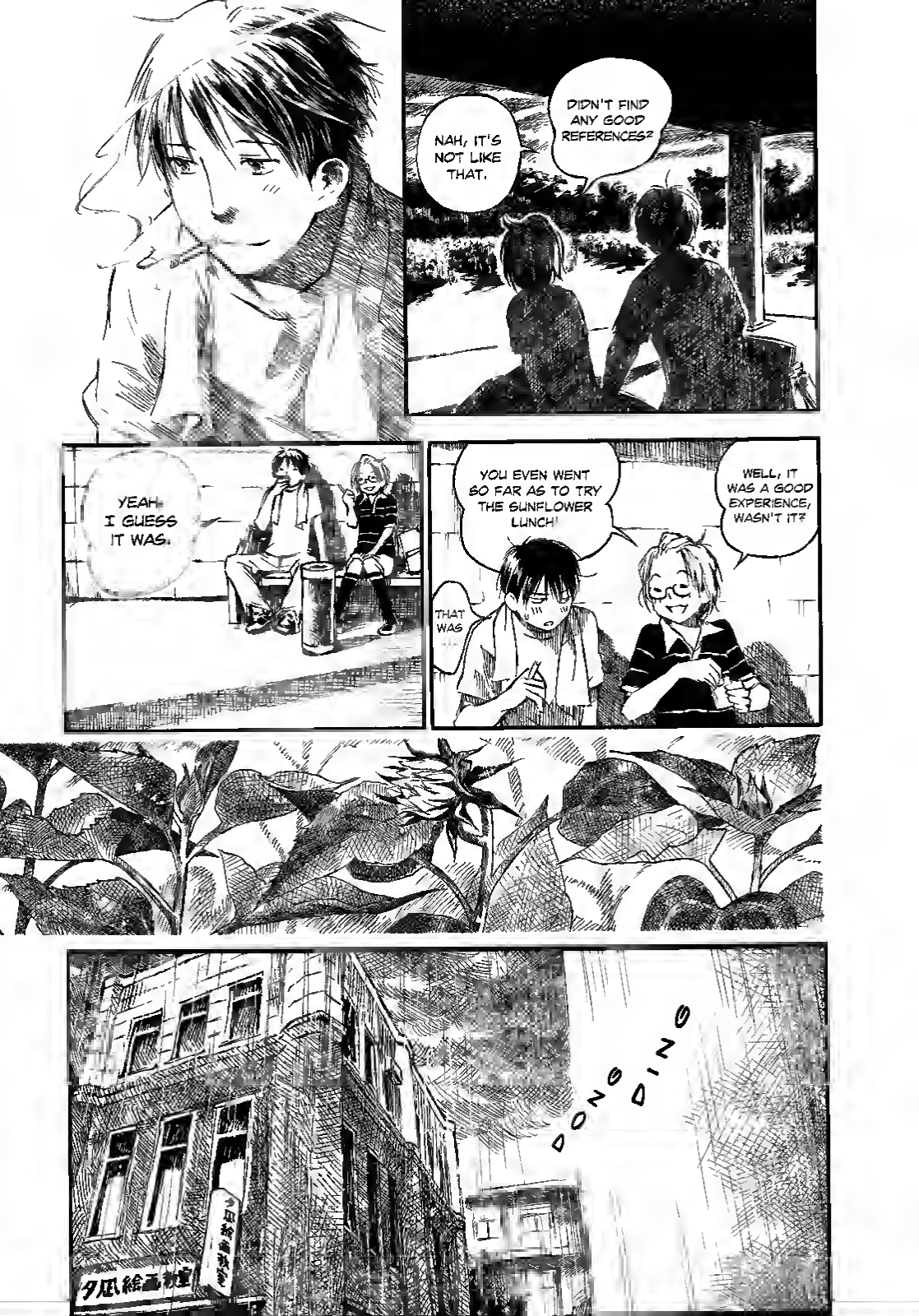


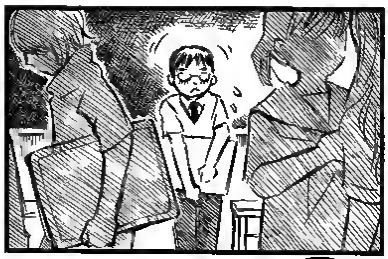
sign: Viewing Greenhouse



ALRIGHT.
GO AND FIND SOME GOOD IDEAS.
C'MON! I'VE GOTTA TRY NEW AND DIFFERENT THINGS, DON'T I?
OTHERWISE I'LL END UP WITH AOKI-ITIS.
AOKI-WHAT?
AH, SORRY...
I WAS JUST THINKING...
HM? IT'S FINE.
THAT MAYBE FOR THIS ISSUE OF "CASTLE," I COULD HAVE IT BE IN A TROPICAL SETTING.
YOU MEAN YOUR MANGA?

AS I THOUGHT, SUNFLOWERS ARE A LITTLE DIFFERENT MID-SUMMER.

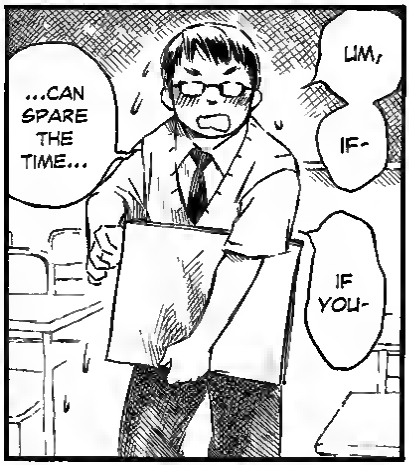

NAH, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
DIDN'T FIND ANY GOOD REFERENCES?
YEAH. I GUESS IT WAS.
YOU EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO TRY THE SUNFLOWER LUNCH!
THAT WAS...
WELL, IT WAS A GOOD EXPERIENCE, WASN'T IT?
DONDON
夕凪絵画教室

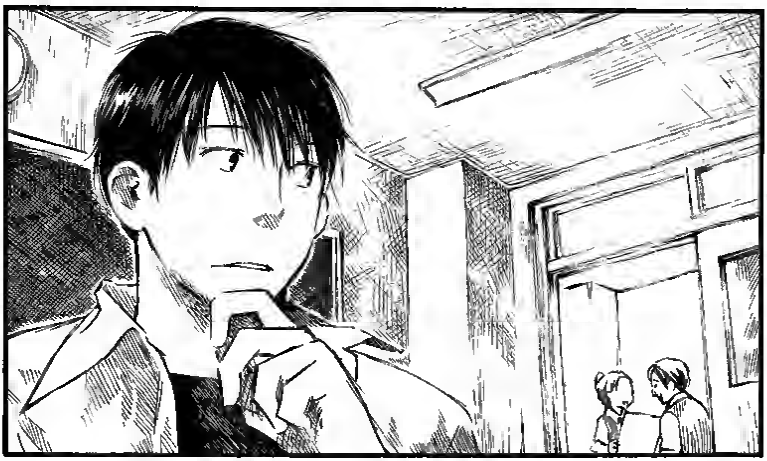


AOKI-SENSEI!
hm?

YES, GOODBYE.
GOODBYE!

DID YOU DRAW THESE AT HOME?
YES, I'M SORRY.
WHY'RE YOU APOLO-GIZING?
DID YOU DRAW THESE WITH A TIME LIMIT?
YES, I USED THE TIME LIMIT THEY HAVE ON THE TEST...


UM, IF-
IF YOU-
...CAN SPARE THE TIME...


Am I alright for this...?

...AND THAT'S MOSTLY IT.
HOW DO YOU DRAW FLOWERS AND PLANTS WELL?!
AH- UMM
DID YOU HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?
YOU WORKED HARD AT THIS, DIDN'T YOU?
I SEE DEFINITE IMPROVEMENT FROM EACH PIECE TO THE NEXT.

I, UMM...
TAMURA-KUN, YOU...
LIKE TO DRAW INANIMATE OBJECTS, DON'T YOU.
YES!
I FIND BEAUTY IN WORKS THAT ARE FINELY CALCULATED AND EXECUTED.
I SEE.
I'M SORRY ...
WHY RE YOU APOLO-GIZING?

HOW ABOUT TOUCHING THE OBJECTS BEFORE YOU DRAW THEM?

HOW HEAVY ARE THEY?
WHAT DO THEY SMELL LIKE?
ARE THEY HARD OR SOFT?
ARE THEY COLD? HOT?
FEEL THEM, AND FIND OUT.
SINCE YOU'RE THE TYPE THAT DECIDES ON YOUR MOTIF AND CAN PRESENT IT WELL,
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE TESTING STYLE THAT ANY SCHOOL USES.
USUALLY, EVERYONE JUST TRIES TO START RIGHT AWAY, BUT...
WHY NOT SPEND ABOUT 5 MINUTES AT THE START TO LOOK AT THE OBJECTS?
THE FEELING OF THE GLASS COMES THROUGH ON THIS ONE.
I THINK THAT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVE A GENUINE INTEREST IN IT,
AND KNOW IT WELL ENOUGH.

But...
He was looking for some more tangible techniques or advice...
...I wonder if,
A soft kitten.
The warmth of a woman's body...
Sunflowers under the sun during rainy seasons.
The thick air of a greenhouse.
If you can directly transfer these feelings into your own paintings...

Who's that?
That guy-
...
Ah!
He touched her!
...
Crap!

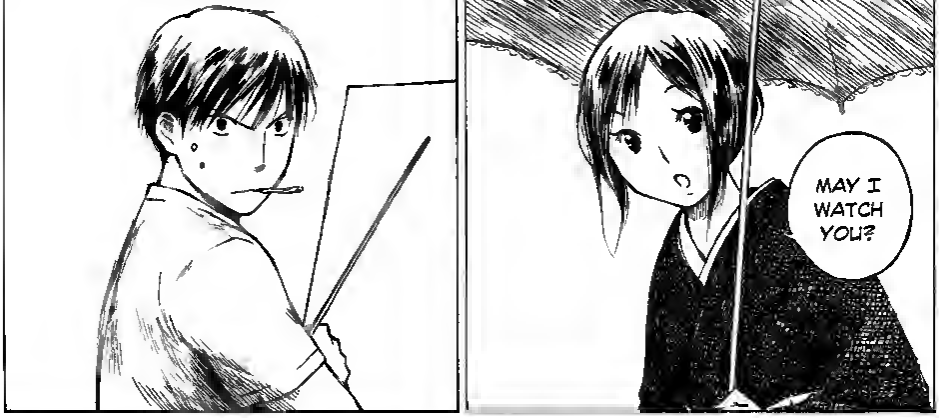
Nothin' to do with me, though...
Her hair...
More red, and fluffy..
Different from Akira's raven black
Seems really soft

CAN I TALK?
SURE.
ISN'T IT STILL TOO EARLY?
WANT TO GO TO THE BEACH?
ARE YOU FREE THIS WEEKEND?
WHY NOT BRING YOUR CANVAS?
WE CAN LEAVE SWIMMING FOR SOME OTHER TIME, BUT...
I'LL BE BUSIER ONCE WE'RE IN JULY.
I'M SURE IT'LL BE PRETTY.

REALLY?!
YEAH, AL-RIGHT.
I'M JOKING! THANKS.
FEH! I'M NEVER DOING THAT AGAIN.
HMMM... SO-SO, I GUESS.
THERE, I'M DONE.
smack
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO, Y'KNOW?
BUT IF I BROUGHT A CANVAS TO PAINT,

MM,
I KNOW.

If she faund out that I was painting while thinking of another girl...
She'd be none too happy about it, huh...
Surely.
It was as if all the cicada's voices just disap-peared.
She still came to me as if none of that mattered.
Last year's summer was really hot.
The strong smell of the grawing grass-



I thought she was some strange girl

Just coming and jumping into my world like it was nothing

I was actually...

...really happy about that.

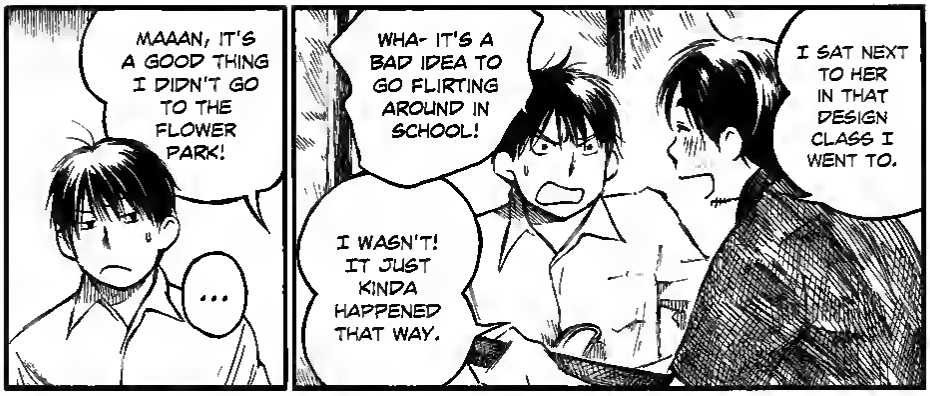
was o first for me
Being touched by someone
It was then I learned the meaning of warmth.
Akira
I want to keep looking at Akira
"I painted this and I'm proud of it."
But,
I get the feeling that this painting will be one where I can honestly say.
I didn't hove any self-confidence until oll this

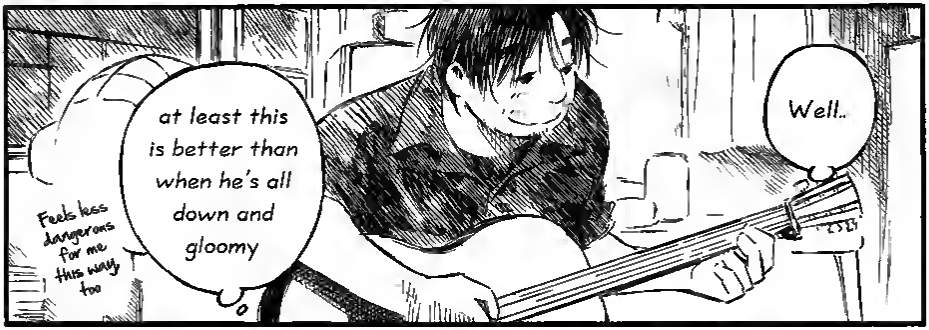
But other than this.

there's nothing else I can do

I'm not sure if this is a proper answer to Akira's feelings...

sign: Akatsuki Manor


MAAAN, IT'S A GOOD THING I DIDN'T GO TO THE FLOWER PARK!
...
WHA- IT'S A BAD IDEA TO GO FLIRTING AROUND IN SCHOOL!
I WASN'T! IT JUST KINDA HAPPENED THAT WAY.
I SAT NEXT TO HER IN THAT DESIGN CLASS I WENT TO.


Well..
at least this is better than when he's all down and gloomy
Feels less dangerous for me this way too

THAT'S RIGHT.

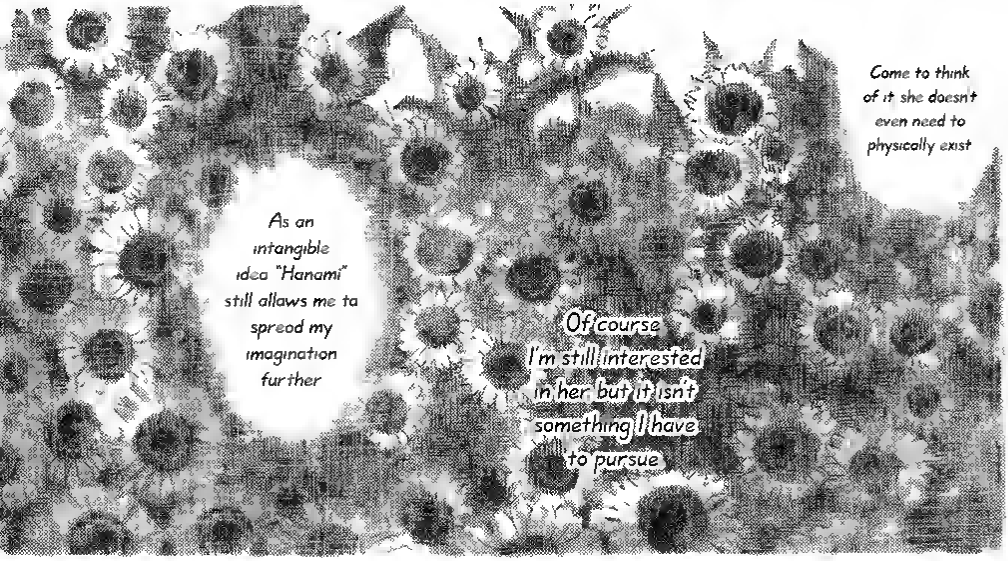
GIRLS ARE WONDERFUL, AREN'T THEY!
AOKI -KUN.

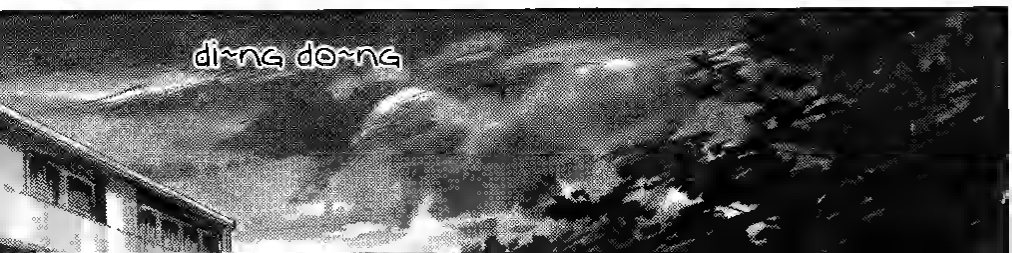
夏の前日

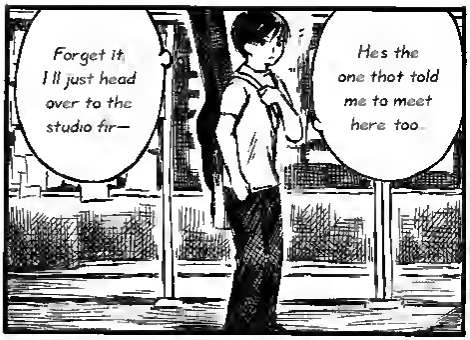
SHE SAYS SHE KNEW ABOUT OUR BAND.

Seems like Mori got a new girlfriend
I'LL INTRODUCE YOU GUYS NEXT TIME.
YEAH?
IT'S FINE.
Mori can be an idiot sometimes but
he's actually a pretty good guy
...
It's more trouble for me if he gets depressed about every other thing too
It'll be nice if he can actually keep his girlfriend this time

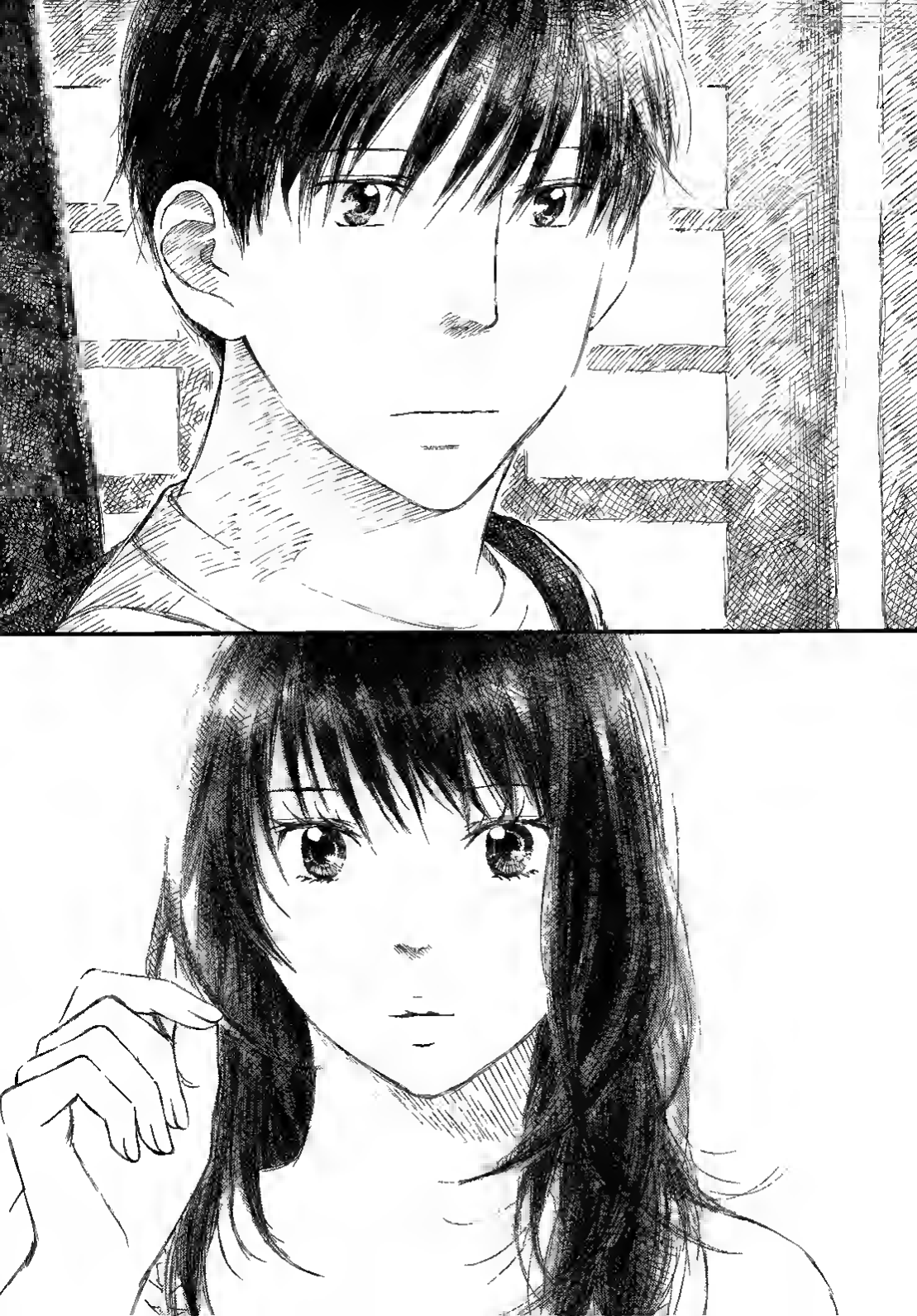
I dreamt of "Hanami"...
Too bad though
I don't remember anything from it at all
Yes.

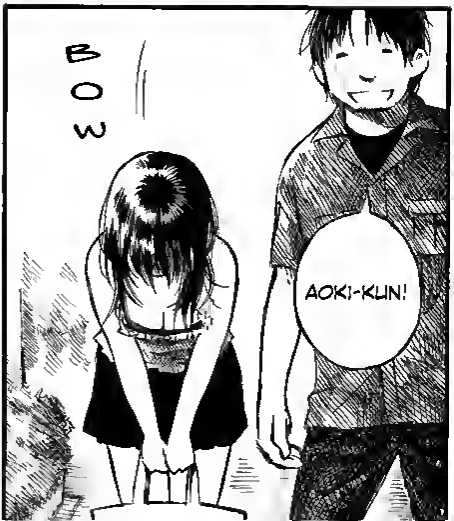

As an intangible idea "Hanami" still allows me to spread my imagination further
Of course I'm still interested in her but it isn't something I have to pursue
Come to think of it she doesn't even need to physically exist


ding dong


Forget it. I'll just head over to the studio fir—
He's the one that told me to meet here too...

He's late
...




BOW
AOKI-KUN!

I'M KORAYAKAWA HANAMI.
A SOPHOMORE IN THE DESIGN MAJOR.

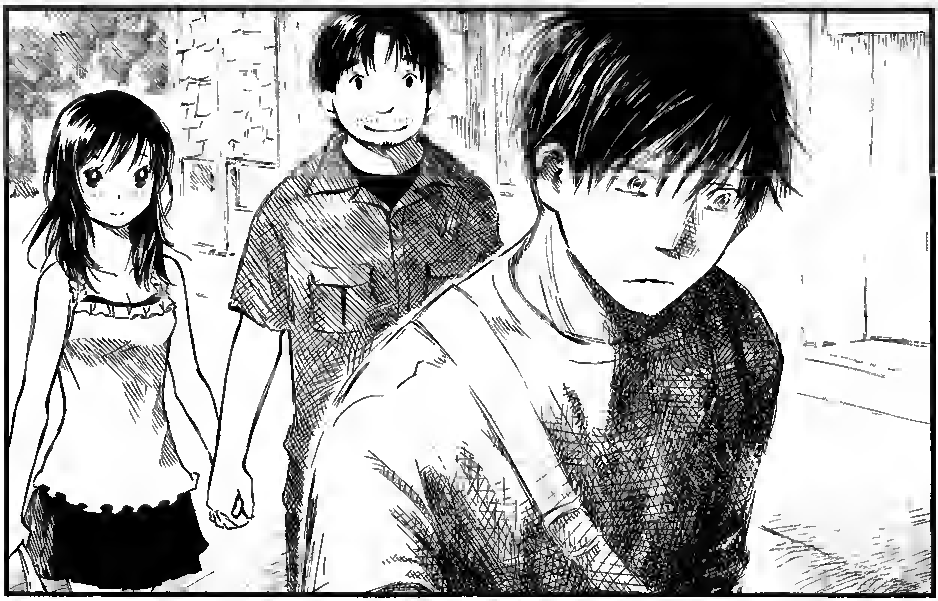
SHE WANTED TO COME SEE US PRACTICE TODAY.
IS IT OKAY?

ARE YOU GUYS GOING OUT?

[CHAPTER 17]

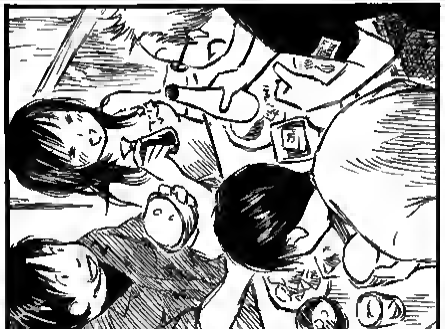
HANAMI

I SEE...

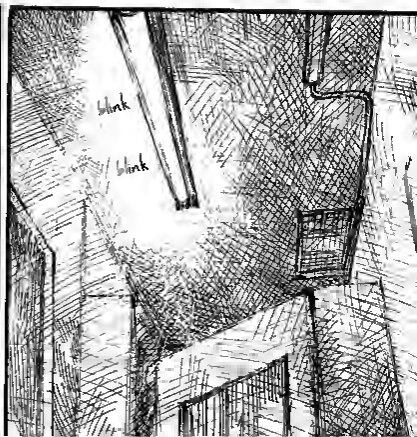


STUDIO
C

What
is this?



...AGH


blink
blink

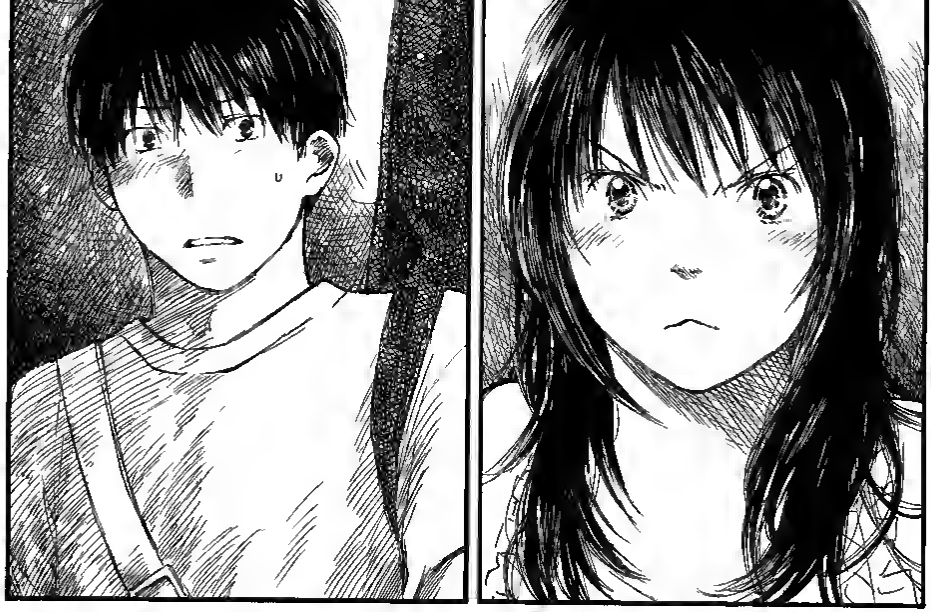
What is this?
A dream, maybe?
HAH
AGHH!
NNGH

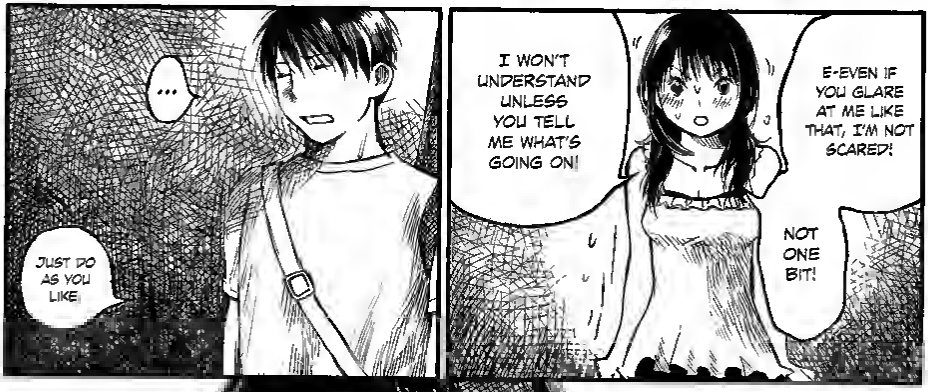
THANKS!
G'BYE HANA-CHAN!
ALRIGHTY, SEE YOU GUYS LATER!

...

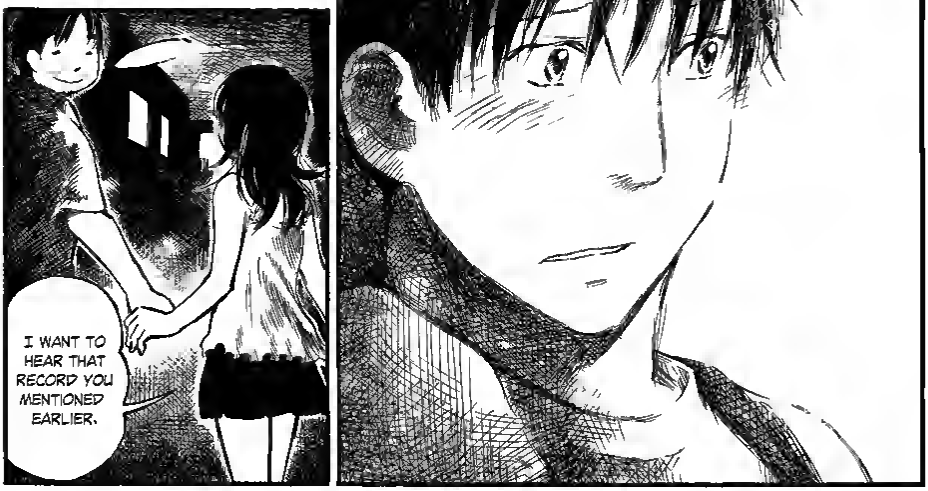
YOU MEAN AOKI?
WHY?
WELL...
"HE WAS ANGRY?"
手洗い
THANKS FOR THE FOOD.
AOKI-KUN'S TAKING A WHILE, HUH?
...

AH...
I BET HE WAS JUST NERVOUS 'CAUSE YOU'RE SO CUTE.
HE'S SHY AROUND NEW PEOPLE.
I REALLY MEAN IT, THOUGH...
YEAH, BUT I'M SERIOUS.
IS IT...
...OKAY IF I COME TO WATCH AGAIN?
IF I'M A BOTHER, PLEASE TELL ME STRAIGHT.
OR IS IT THAT YOU DISLIKE ME?
WHY'RE YOU ASKING ME?
...BUT YOU LOOKED SO UPSET...
I'M NOT.

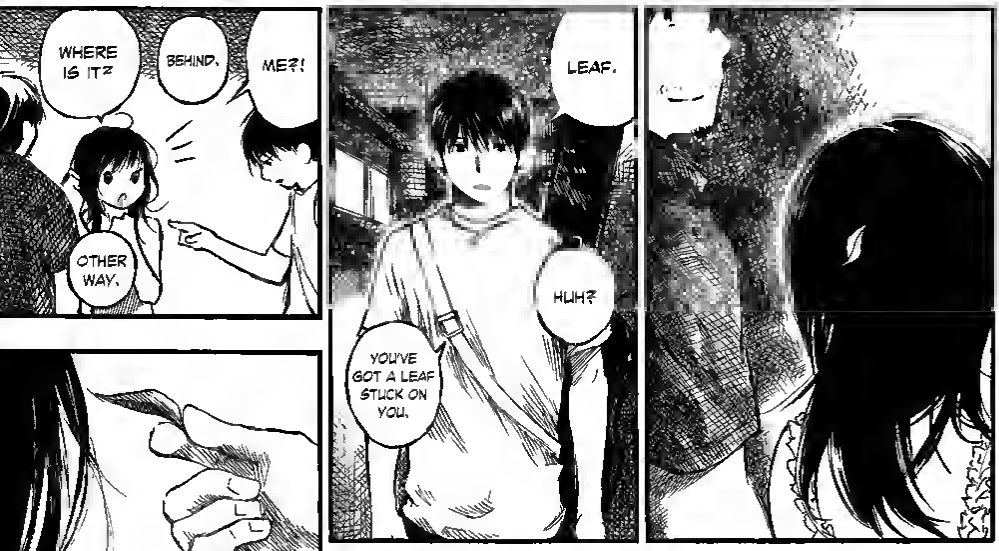



...
JUST DO AS YOU LIKE!
I WON'T UNDERSTAND UNLESS YOU TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON!
E-EVEN IF YOU GLARE AT ME LIKE THAT, I'M NOT SCARED!
NOT ONE BIT!

YAY!
THEN CAN I COME TO PRACTICE?
YEAH, WHATEVER.


I WANT TO HEAR THAT RECORD YOU MENTIONED EARLIER.

COME OVER FOR SOME DRINKS, THEN.
AOKI, YOU'RE IN, RIGHT?


WHERE IS IT?
BEHIND.
ME?!
OTHER WAY.
LEAF.
HUH?
YOU'VE GOT A LEAF STUCK ON YOU.

DID YOU GET IT?
AH,
THERE REALLY WAS.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

HM?
...
GREAT GUY, ISN'T HE?
MY BAD.
FOR BEING SO UPSET TODAY.
I'M GOIN' HOME.

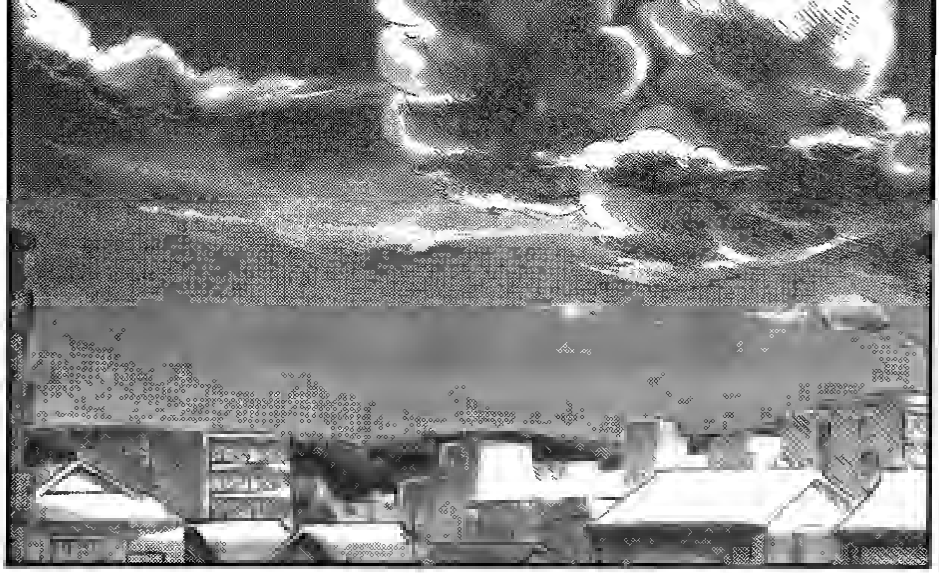
tick
tock

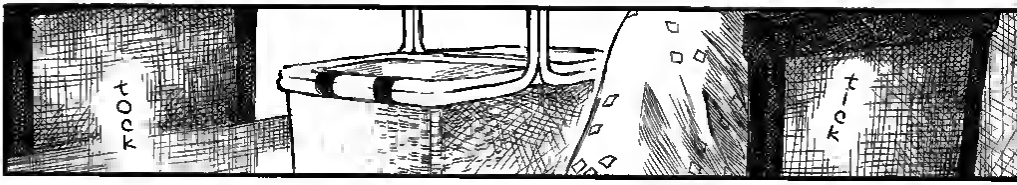
Hanami
Hanami
Kobayakawa Hanami
roll

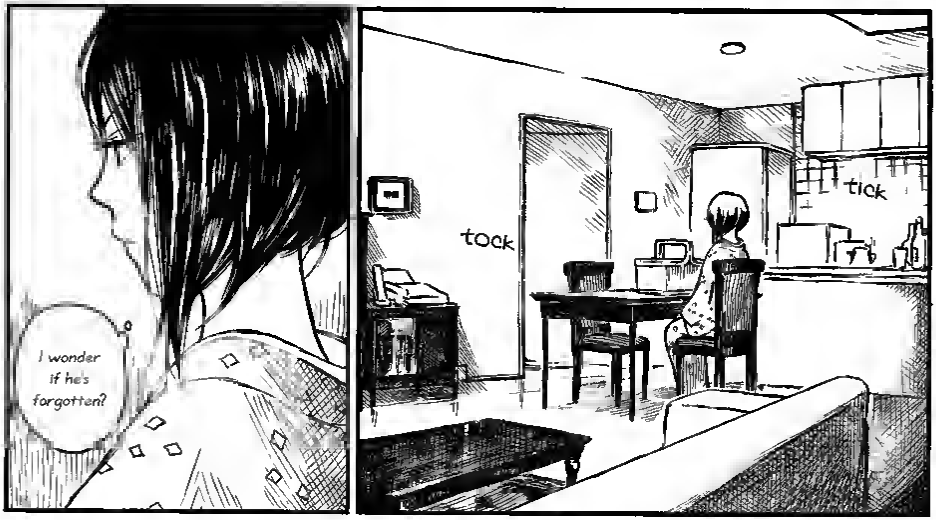
WHY...?!

[CHAPTER 18]

A Day at the Beach




tock
tick


I wonder if he's forgotten?
tock
tick

to go to the beach today right?
There's no way he could have forgotten such a wonderful promise

ding
dong
I'M SURE HE WAS JUST UP LATE DRINKING WITH MORI-KUN AGAIN
AND HE WAS THE ONE SAYING WE SHOULD WAKE UP EARLY TO GO...
step
step
step
GOOD MORNING.
DID YOU HAVE BREAKFAST BEFORE COMING?

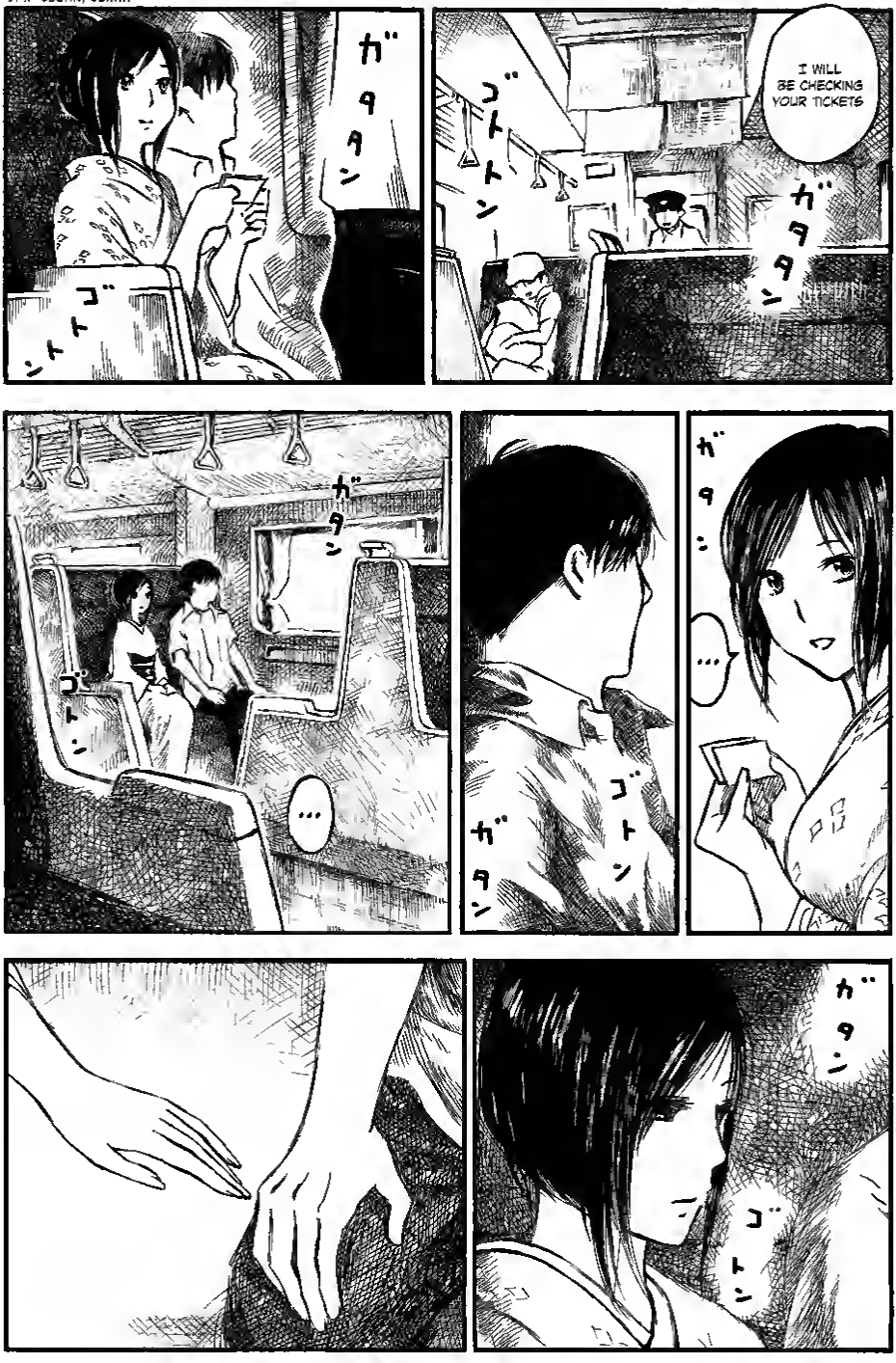
...
MM.

WHERE ARE YOUR ART TOOLS?
.....
I FORGOT

...LET'S GO.

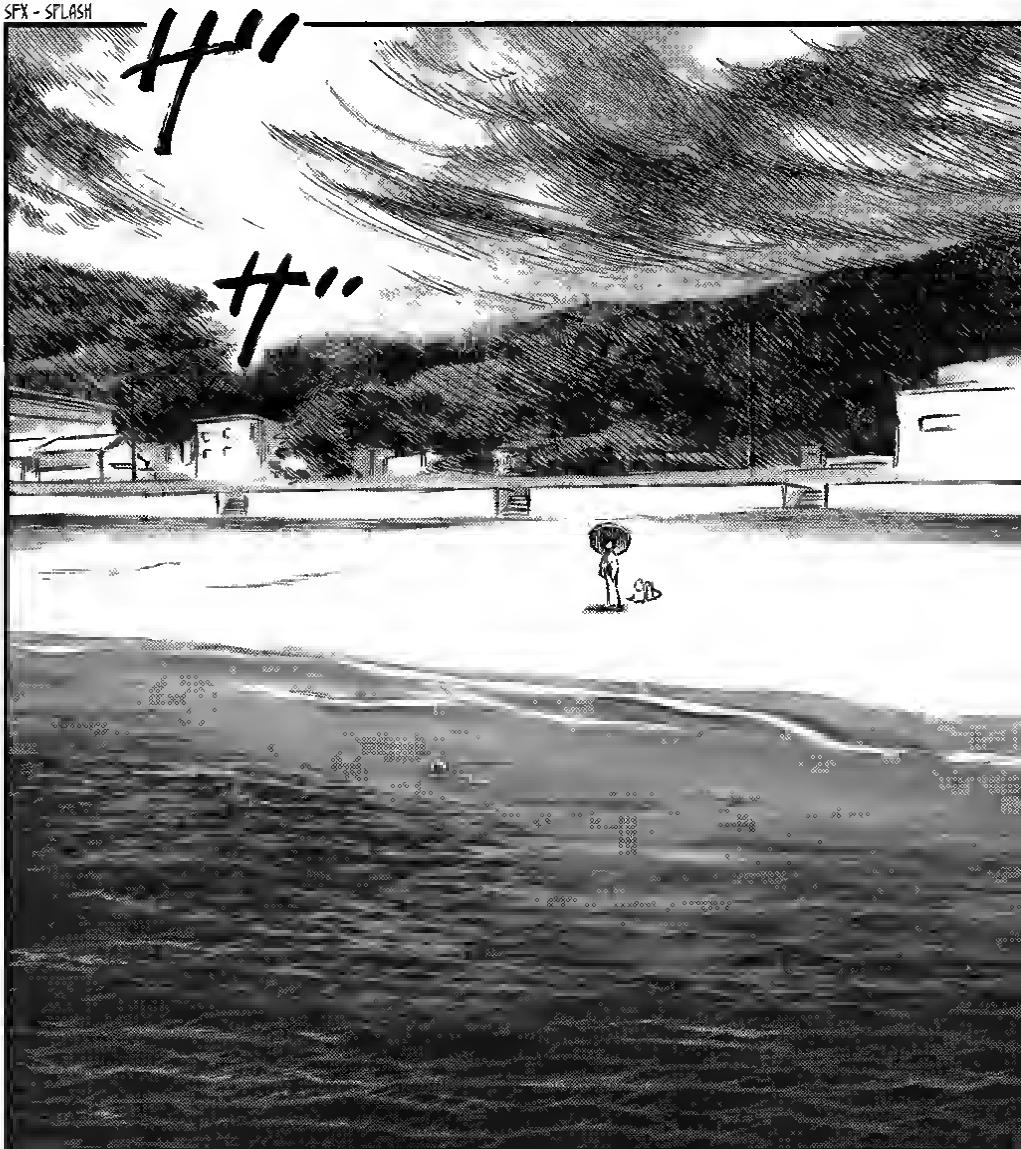
CLUNK
CLACK

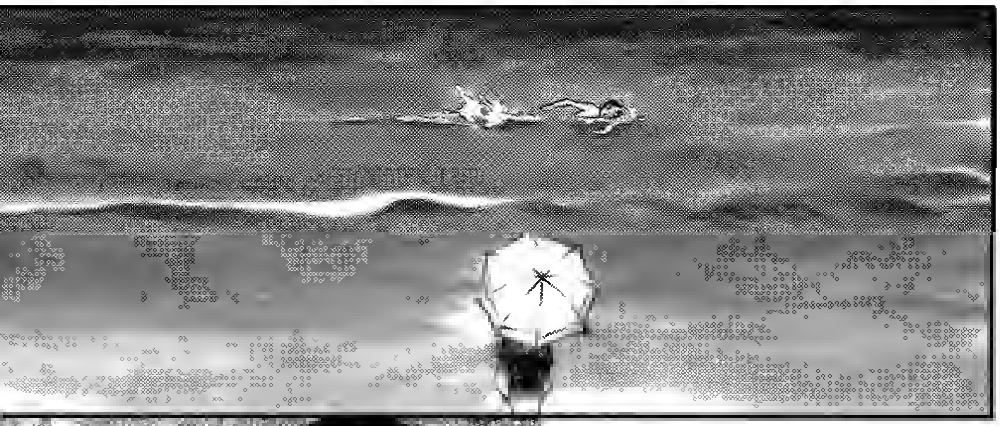
SFX: CLUNK, CLANK

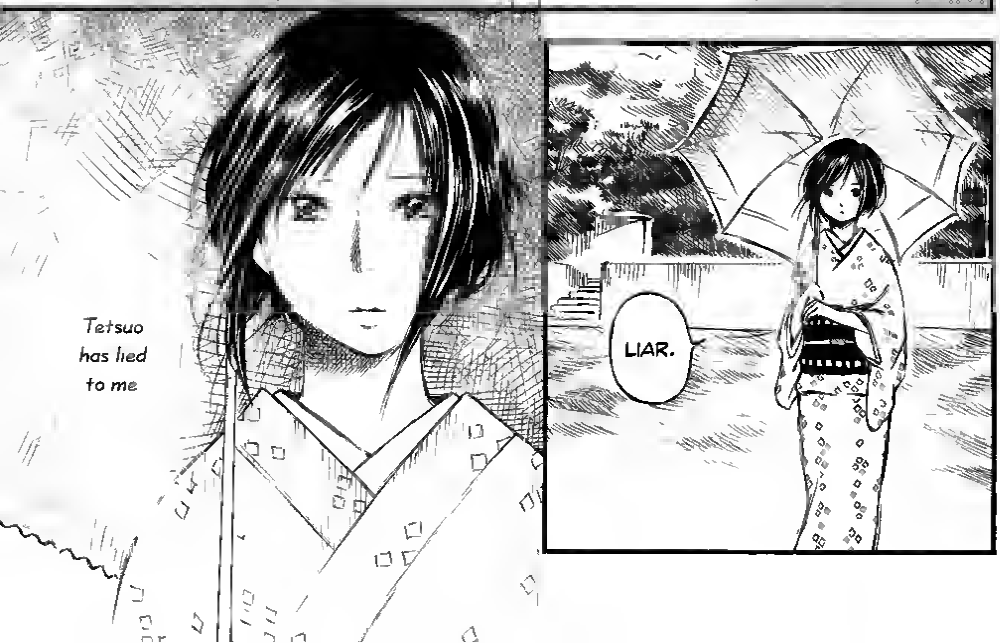


SFX - TWITCH
ギュッ
ガタン
ゴトン
ガタン
IT'S NOTHING.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

SFX - SPLASH



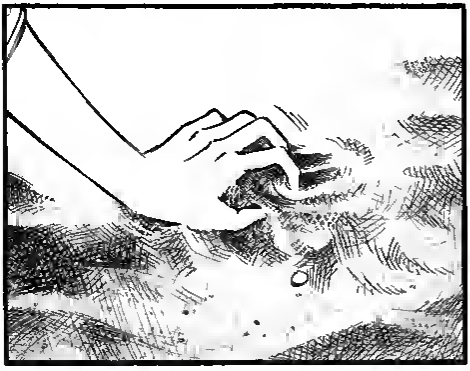


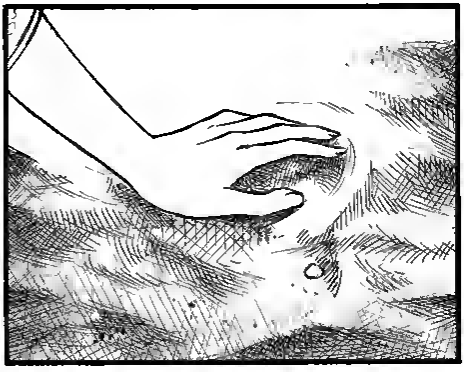

Tetsuo has lied to me
LIAR.

He doesn't want
to talk about it so much
that he made up such
an awful lie...

He goes
and swims
on his own
He goes off
on his own,
pretending
he's fine
Alone
..always.

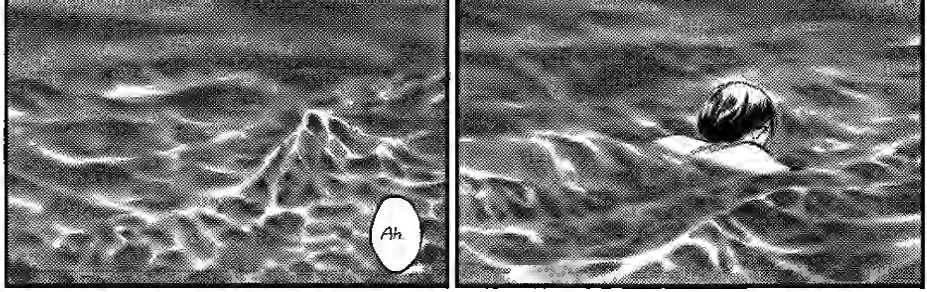
Horrible
He refuses
to talk about
anything at all
closing himself off
to the world

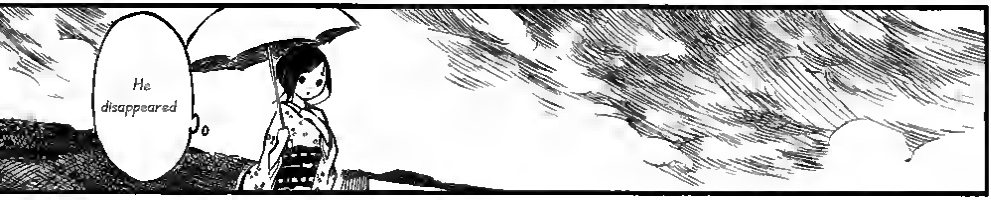


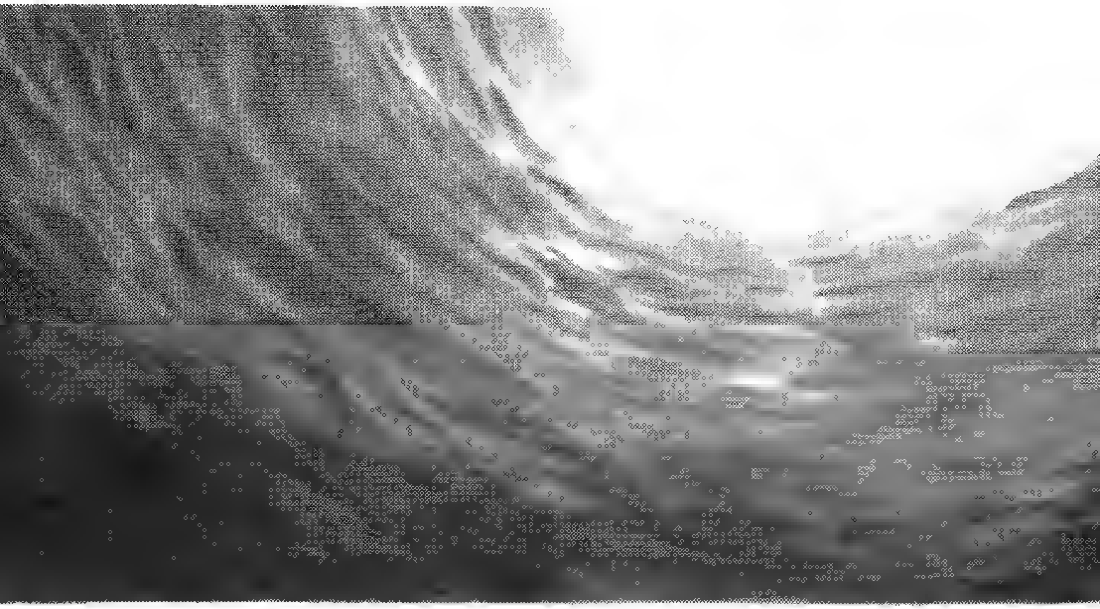


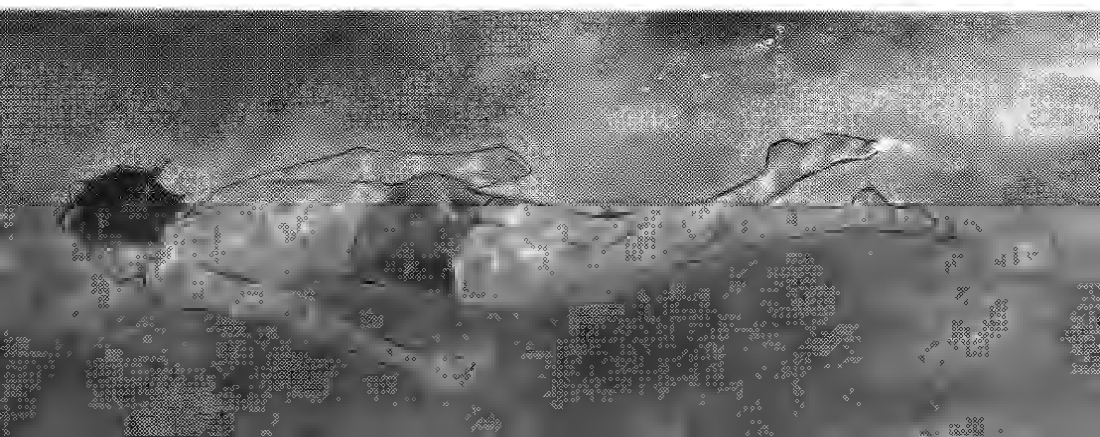
I don't care if you show it on your face that I'm being a bother
I will find out what it is that's troubling you.

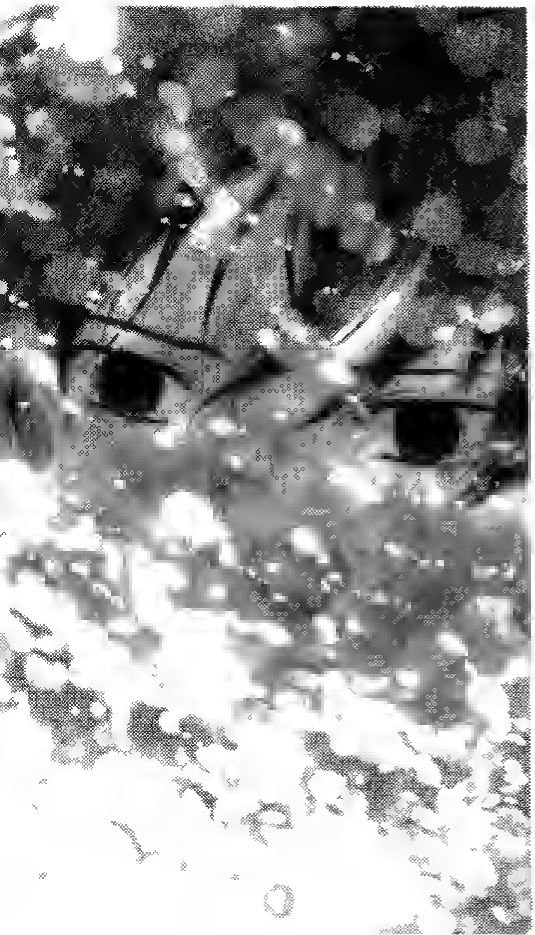
It seems as if...
...he's going to go off to some faraway place...


Ah

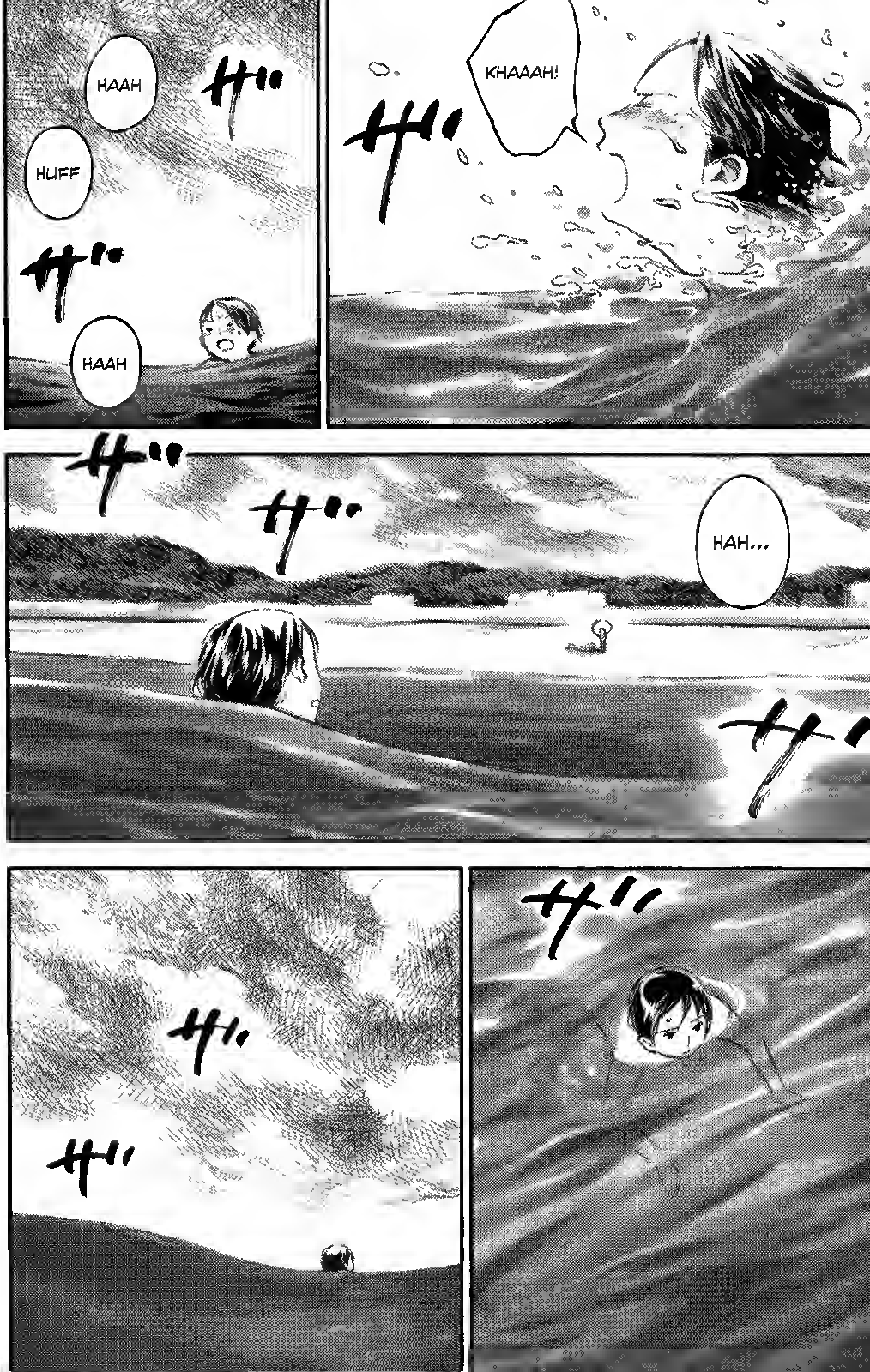

He disappeared







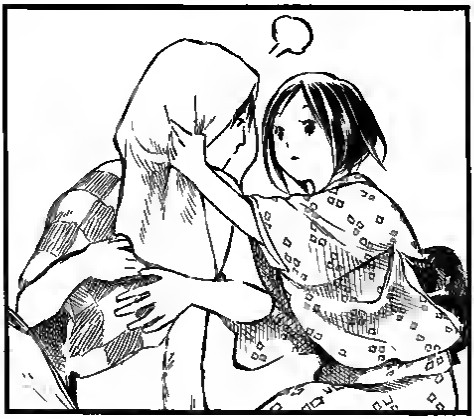
—
It's really deep...

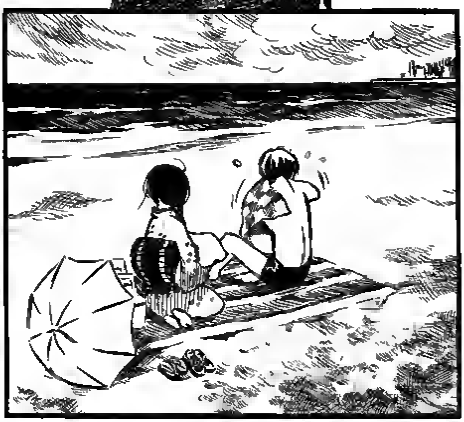

HAAH
HUFF
HAAH
KHAAAH!
HAH...

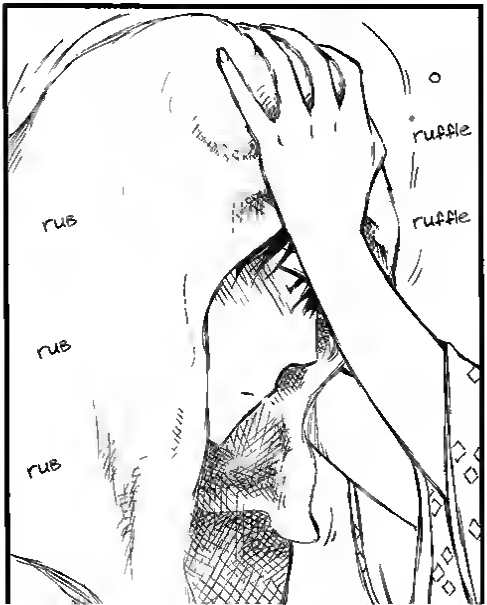
ザ
ザ
ザ
WELCOME BACK.

IT WAS COLD, WASN'T IT?
THE WEATHER ISN'T THAT GREAT TODAY, EITHER...
IT WASN'T SO BAD IN THE WATER.

shiver
shiver
shiver
shiver
shiver
shiver






ruffle
ruffle
rub
rub
rub

ruffle
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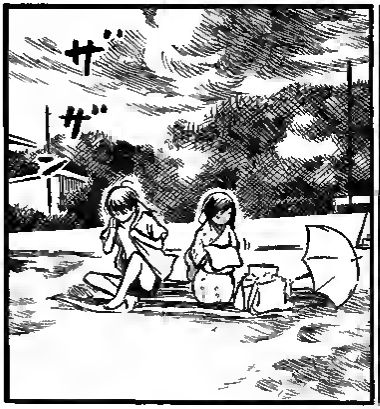
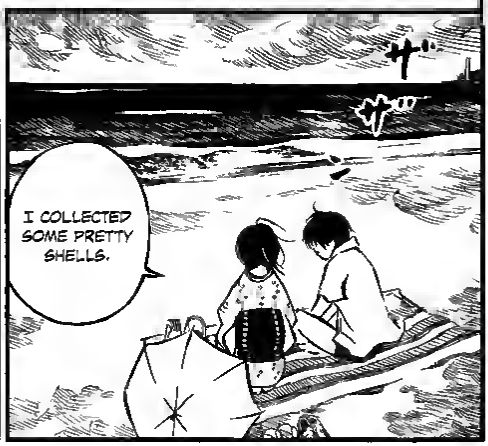


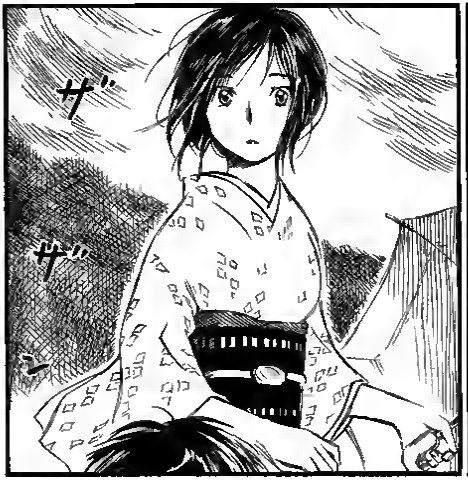
I'M GOOD.

SEE?
WHAT KIND?
LIKE THESE.
YEAH.


I COLLECTED SOME PRETTY SHELLS.

I BROUGHT BENTOS THAT I MADE.
HEY, ARE YOU HUNGRY?

I'LL GO WASH MY HANDS.
HUH?
I CAN'T GET THE SAND OFF MY HANDS WITH JUST PAPER TOWELS
IT'LL JUST BE A MOMENT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STAY HERE.

YOU SILLY.
I'M NOT GOING OFF ANYWHERE.

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FROM AFAR,
I COULD SEE IT PRETTY CLEARLY
YOUR FIGURE, WAITING FOR ME.

SO WHEN I WANTED TO COME BACK,
I JUST HAD TO RETURN TO WHERE YOU ARE.
MM...
SFX- ROLL
TIRED FROM SWIMMING?
...
ころん
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I WANT TO STAY LIKE THIS FOREVER.

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サ"
サ"
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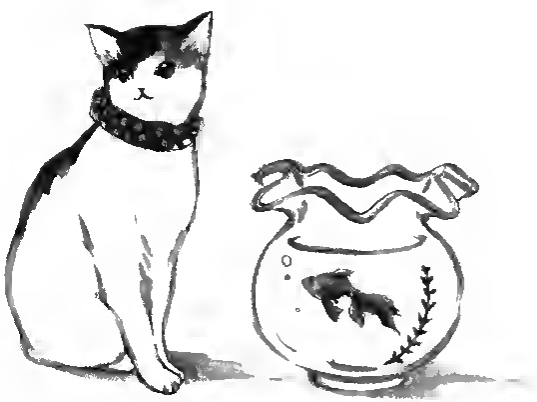
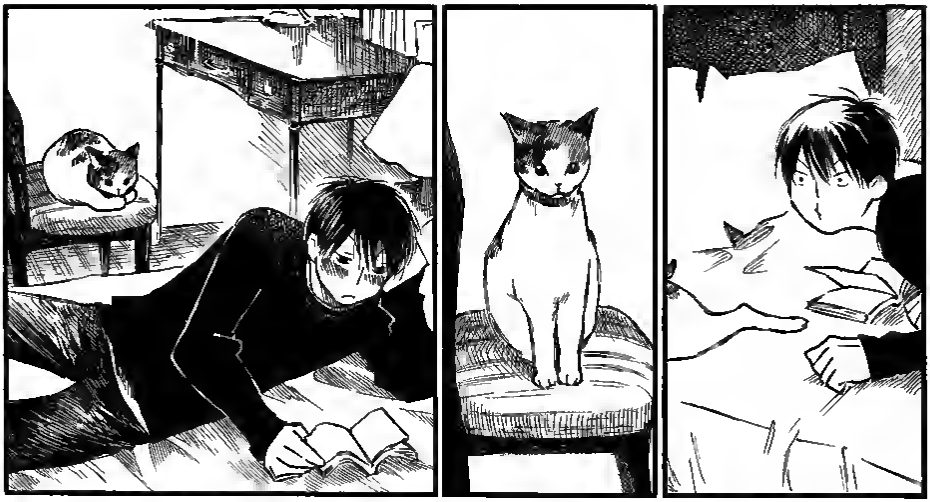
サ"
サ"

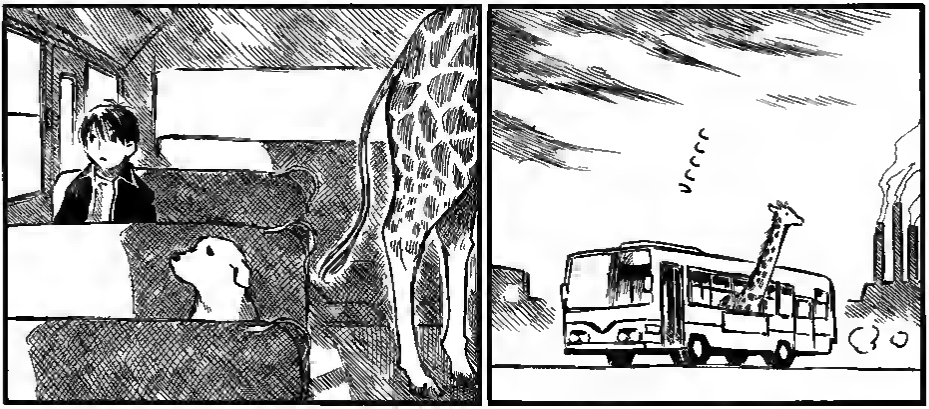
SUMMER IS COMING AGAIN.
VOLUME 3 END



Nyatsu No Zenjitsu

sniff
sniff




Jeeee

SHUT UP!
ROARR
strumma
strum
strum
strum—

WHO WANTS TO GO EAT~?
mee~
DO YOU EVEN HAVE ANY MONEY?
AOKI -KUN,
WILL YOU BE PAINTING TODAY, TOO?
NAH.
ACTUALLY, I'M KINDA HUNGRY.
YOU TOTALLY ARE.
I'M NOT.
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT, AOKI-KUN?

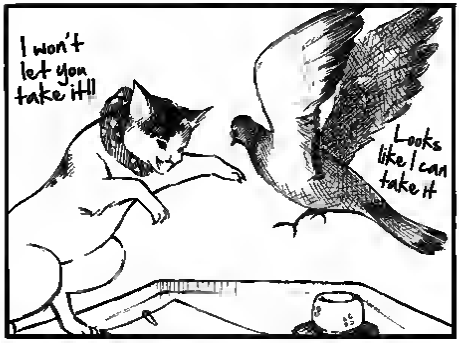
SWISH
SWISH
dimly

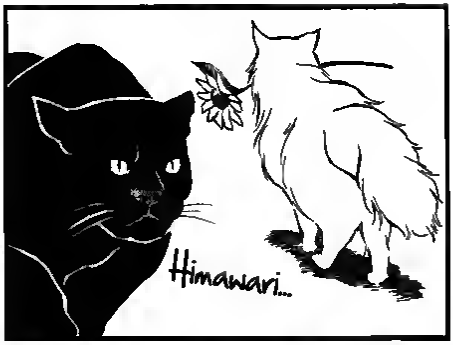
END

『 NATSU NO ZENJITSU 』 For dummies

A QUICK DIGEST OF THE STORY BETWEEN TETSUO AND AKIRA THUS FAR

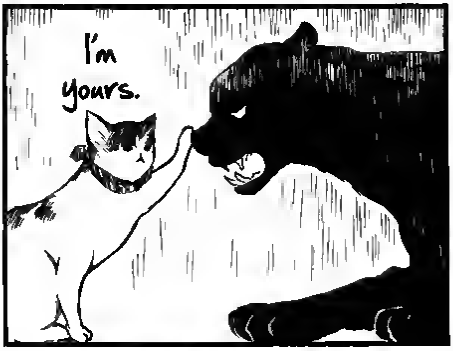
INTRODUCTION OF THE CHARACTERS





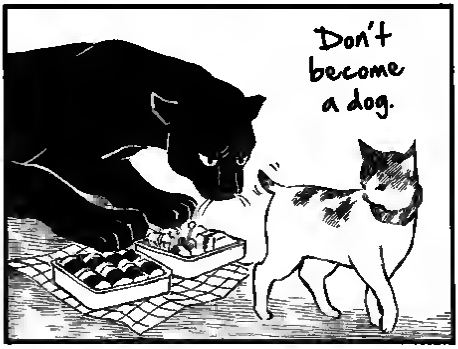
AOKI TETSUO

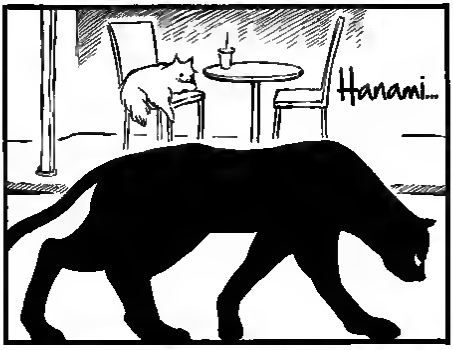
AN ART STUDENT AT HYOSHI ART UNIVERSITY. HE IS THE MAIN CHARACTER. A WORKING STUDENT WITH PART-TIME JOBS AT AN ART SUPPLY STORE AND AN ART CLASS. HE LACKS IN SOCIAL SKILLS.

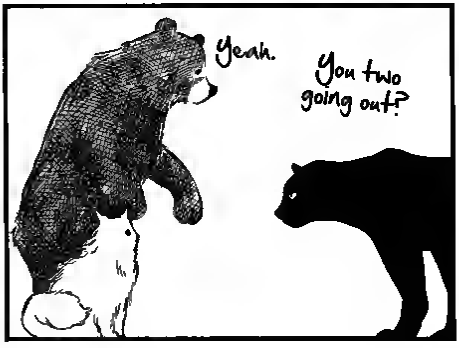


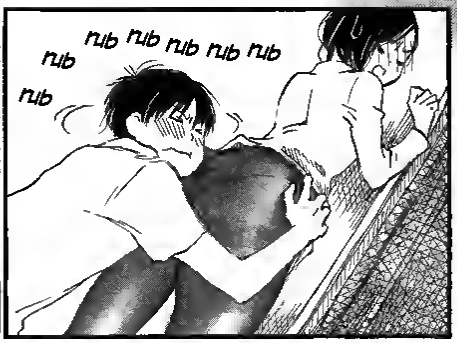
Aizawa akira

OWNER OF THE MOONLIT GALLERY AND TETSUO'S LOVER. A KIMONO-CLAD BEAUTY THAT FIRST LAID EYES ON TETSUO AT THE ART SUPPLY STORE HAS BECOME TETSUO'S BIGGEST SUPPORTER.









See you in volume 4

※収録されている表現は、作品の執筆年代・執筆された状況を考慮し、
コミックス発売当時のまま掲載しています。

夏の前日（3）

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